Hafa Adai!

Marianas tourism ambassador Nakayama lecture on Aug. 7. PAGE 2
DLNR conducts livestock survey in CNMI. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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IN SEXUAL MISCONDUCT CASE

Frahm moves to dismiss 1 of 3 charges

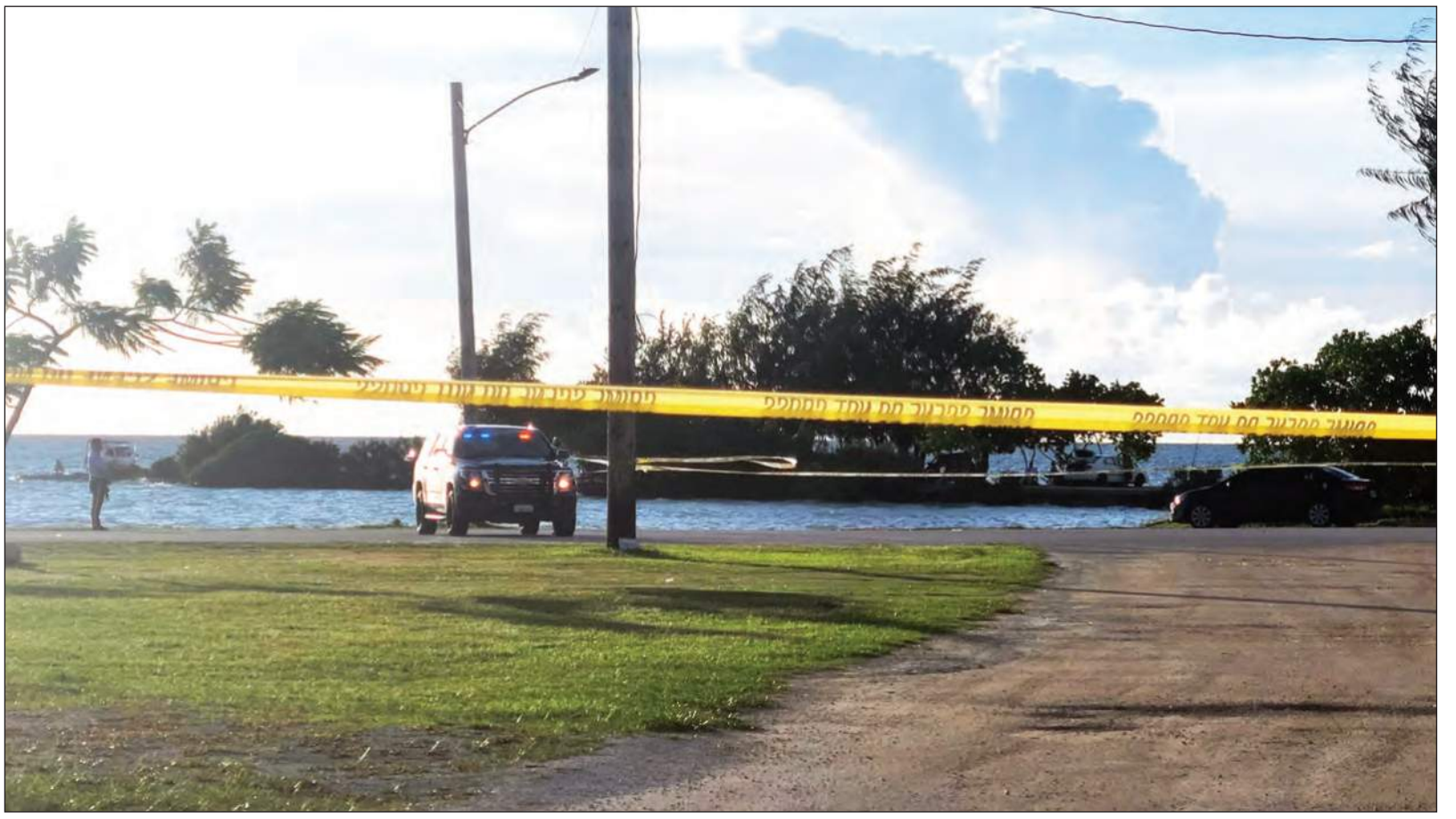
By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former local high school band teacher David Matthew Frahm has moved to dismiss count three of the superseding indictment filed against him pursuant to a pending sexual misconduct case.

Frahm

Last Wednesday, Frahm, through his attorney Richard Miller, filed a motion to dismiss count three of the superseding indictment filed against him by the United States

See FRAHM on Page 4



BODY FOUND AT FISHING BASE

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Several response teams from the Department of Public Safety closed off the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday after reports that a deceased person was found there early evening. DPS said this is an ongoing investigation.

MGI: We've made significant efforts to collaborate with existing operators

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariana Global Inc. says it has made significant efforts to collaborate with existing operators on the use of Mañagaha, but they have allegedly declined all of MGI's proposals.

Local marine operators who

See MGI on Page 4

Palacios makes good on promise to intervene in SMA, CPA issue

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has made good on his promise to intervene in the dispute between Star Marianas Air, Inc. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority regarding airport fees and has engaged in conversation with both parties.

Palacios

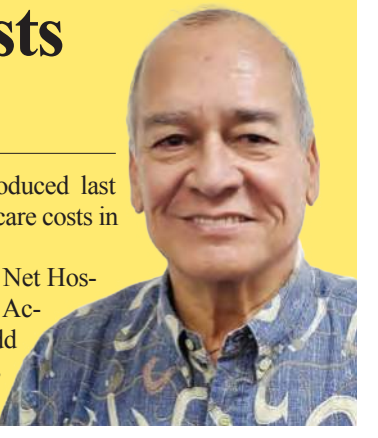
In an interview with Palacios last Wednesday, he shared that he has met with SMA and CPA on two separate occasions to hear both sides of the story and to identify a compromise between the parties.

"We've started to become referees now, but...that is our job, to figure out how to fix

See PALACIOS on Page 4

Kilili files 2 bills to reduce health care costs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

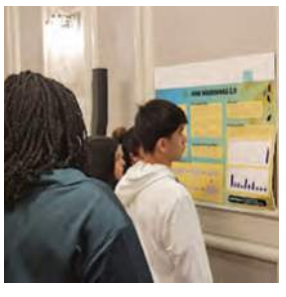


Delegate Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) introduced last week two bills aimed at lowering health care costs in the Marianas and other U.S. territories.

Sablan's Supporting Territorial Safety Net Hospitals Act, or H. R. 9128, and Equitable Access to 340B Act, or H.R. 9127, seek to add the Marianas and other U.S. territories

See KILILI on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Ismail Hossain and Kelly Zheng, two students from the CNMI and youth delegates of 4-H Marianas, concluded their "One Marianas" project.

PAGE 6

NATION

Democratic Senate Leader Chuck Schumer is daring Republicans to vote against a bipartisan tax cut package aimed at expanding the child tax credit for millions of families and restoring some business tax breaks.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

The German city of Gelsenkirchen, which temporarily renamed itself "Swiftkirchen" before the American superstar played three concerts there in mid-July.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

WIC CNMI
World Breastfeeding Week
BREASTFEEDING CHAMPIONS
What support did you have with your breastfeeding journey?
I had so much support from my family, work, and friends with both my babies! I made sure to let them know my breastfeeding/pumping plans and how they can help with my journey. Whether it was washing and preparing my pump, feeding or watching baby, or just checking in on me. My workplace also allowed for accommodations to my schedule to work from home half days while I got into the groove of breastfeeding and pumping. I also have time and space to pump while at work.
If you could offer one piece of advice to new moms that are thinking of breastfeeding, what would that be?
The first piece of advice is to learn about breastfeeding before and while you're pregnant! There are so many things to think about as a new parent and only so much you can prepare for, but feeding your baby is one if not the most important.
Keanna Villagomez Lin,
Saipan, CNMI
Mom of 2
Talk to family, friends, and your health provider to get more information about breastfeeding and how to make it work for you and your baby. They also might be able to help you tap into resources like WIC or your health insurance for breast pump, supplies, and counseling.
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www.chcc.health
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Local

Marianas tourism ambassador Nakayama lecture on Aug. 7

Honorary Marianas tourism ambassador Kyoko Nakayama of Teikyo University in Tokyo, Japan will present the lecture "Sharing Mariana Islands History and Culture in Japan" on Aug. 7, 2024, on Saipan.

The free lecture will be held at 5:30pm at American Memorial Park Visitors Center in Garapan. Doors open at 5pm. Nakayama's visit to the Marianas is being coordinated by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Nakayama

"In January this year we were pleased to name professor Nakayama as Marianas honorary tourism ambassador for her long-standing enthusiasm for and promotion of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "While she has visited the Marianas many times before, this will be the first opportunity for her to share about her work teaching about Japan's historical ties to the Marianas. It will be interesting to hear that important part of our history from the perspective of the Japanese. As we work to rebuild arrivals from Japan, it's important that we focus on rekindling that special relationship the Marianas has had with Japan for over a century. Our appointment of professor Nakayama as honorary tourism ambassador is just one way of protecting and promoting that special relationship between our two peoples."

Nakayama will share her interest in the culture and history of the Marianas, the impact of indigenous cultural dance on her students, and efforts to promote Japan's historical ties of the Marianas through "The Truth of Tropical Islands" exhibit at Teikyo University Museum.

"Professor Nakayama's public presentation on Aug. 7 will help us examine those elements of our history and culture that are valued and represented in Japan," said Northern Marianas Humanities Council executive director Leo Pangelinan. "At the same time, we have set up an immersive tour for her to take a deeper dive into our culture that most visitors have not experienced."

The lecture will include a Chamorro dance performance by an established Chamorro dance group in Japan, "Guma 'Famagu'on Tano' yan I Tasi" (House of the Children of the Land and Sea).

Nakayama will be joined by eight students from Teikyo University on her visit, which will include an "åmot" (medicine) walk with "Yo'åmti'" (traditional healer) Donald Mendiola, a learning experience of indigenous Carolinian dance, and other activities.

For more information, contact the Northern Marianas Humanities Council at info@nmhcouncil.org. ***(PR)***

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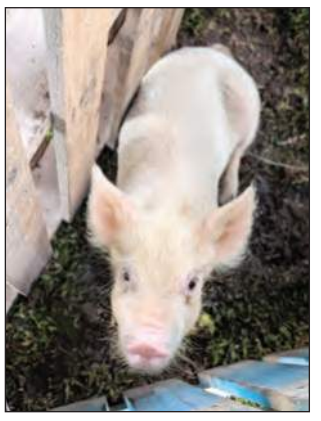
DLNR conducts livestock survey in CNMI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A cow watching his surroundings during the Agricultural Fair last June.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured here is a bright piglet ready for last June's Agricultural Fair.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources Animal Health Division has been conducting a comprehensive livestock survey across Saipan. This initiative aims to gather critical data to enhance animal health and production programs for the benefit of local ranchers and the broader community.

The survey began on Saipan on July 1, 2024. Animal Health staff coordinates with and visits ranchers to conduct the survey, asking standardized questions meant to provide a more

See DLNR on Page 4

Registration for NMTech Fall 2024 classes closes Aug. 5

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Registration is currently open as the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Fall classes are set to kick off on Aug. 5, 2024.

NMTech Marketing and Outreach coordinator Benjamin Babauta Jr. said the institute will be offering their baking and pastry courses as well as the automotive: brakes, automotive:sSteering and suspension, electrical, heating, ventilation, and air

See NMTECH on Page 4

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Man found guilty of utility theft

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A man charged with utility theft was found guilty yesterday during Day 2 of his bench trial at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe.

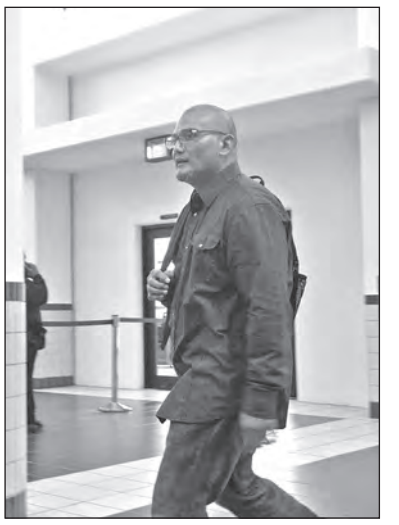
John Anthony M. Deleon Guerrero appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Wednesday, July 31, and Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024, in regards to allegations of him tampering with a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water meter.

Deleon Guerrero faced charges of theft of utility services, and was represented by assistant public defender Molly Dennert, with Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig also at the defense table. Assistant attorney general Frances Demapan prosecuted the case for the government.

During Day 1 of the trial, prosecution called several witnesses, including police officer Elijah Villar, CUC meter reader Daniel James L. Cruz, DPS Crime Scene technician Sgt. Daniel Kintol, DPS evidence custodian Sgt. Therese Manglona, CUC safety technician Delfin Camacho, and CUC meter reader Maximo Attao Jr.

Delfin Camacho testified that he responded to the tampering incident on Dec. 13, 2023, in Chinatown. "I saw a 'straight pipe' with a spider valve, tampered meter—basically the residence is receiving unmetered water," he stated. Camacho also recounted his interview with Deleon Guerrero, who admitted to replacing the broken meter for restroom and water tank use.

Camacho further testified that upon returning to the same residence on Jan. 13, 2024, he observed another "straight pipe with a ball valve," describing it as a crude temporary connection. He secured the water meter box cover and reported the incident to DPS.



CHRYSTAL MARINO
John Deleon Guerrero walks to his bail hearing after a short recess yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FRAHM

From page 1

Attorney which essentially charged him with engaging in illicit sexual conduct while "residing in … a foreign country".

Miller, in his motion, poses the question "how far can the federal government reach across the globe to charge and individual?"

"When you travel abroad, it goes without saying that you must obey the laws of the country you are in. If, say, you drive drunk in a foreign country and get into an accident, you can expect to be held accountable for drunk driving in that country's courts, under that country's laws. But would you expect, and think it fair, for the United States government to charge you with DUI? How far can the federal government reach across the globe to charge you, merely because you're a U.S. citizen, if you're accused of committing a crime abroad? If you were traveling abroad and the crime affects foreign commerce, it turns out the answer is: Pretty darn far. But what if you weren't traveling abroad but were actually living abroad? That's the question defendant David Frahm, by and through counsel, raises in this motion," he said.

Miller, in defense of Frahm, argues that the U.S. Congress was without power under the Foreign Commerce Clause to enact the 2013 amendment to 18 U.S.C. §2423© criminalizing conduct occurring entirely abroad by a person residing abroad merely by virtue of that person's U.S. citizenship.

"Although Congress' power to enforce treaties may be broad, this statute, as amended, exceeds the bounds of the Necessary and Proper Clause. For these reasons, count three should be dismissed.," he said.

Miller states that this case raises the question of whether Congress has the authority to criminalize conduct by American citizens residing abroad that occurs abroad and is not alleged to have any connection to foreign commerce.

"The Ninth Circuit has determined that Congress acted within its powers under the Foreign Commerce Clause when it criminalized travel in foreign commerce coupled with engaging in non-commercial sexual activity while abroad. The Ninth Circuit has not spoken on the whether Congress acted within its constitutional powers in criminalizing such conduct by Americans merely residing abroad. The Foreign Commerce Clause does not grant Congress power to regulate extraterritorial non-commercial activity of U.S. citizens who merely reside abroad," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MGI

From page 1

have long been using Mañagaha for commercial purposes have banded together in opposition of Department of Public Land's recently proposed amendments to the existing rules and regulations governing the use of Mañagaha.

Operators believe that the proposed amendments only benefit master concessionaire, MGI, and could put them out of business.

In response to this issue, MGI claims that over the past year, it has worked diligently to collaborate with existing operators.

"Our proposal focused on partnership and mutual benefit. We offered financial support to replace outdated and unsafe equipment for marine sports and rental operators, in exchange for subcontracting the provision of services to tourists visiting Mañagaha through us, ensuring fair profit margins. Additionally, we proposed a commission of 30-40% for local small travel agencies in return for their partnership in promoting and offering our services. We made significant efforts to collaborate with the existing operators, but they have declined all of our proposals for unknown reasons," said MGI

MGI adds that it has made significant efforts over the past year to garner revenue but despite a monthly expenditure of $300,000, its revenue remains around $50,000

"We estimate [this] to be about 20% of the total revenue generated by Mañagaha Island. The remaining 80% is retained by existing operators. As a result, we have been absorbing a monthly loss of $250,000," said MGI.

Because of this, MGI claims the current business model of Mañagaha poses significant risks.

First, MGI says intense price competition among existing operators has led to service prices at Mañagaha being significantly lower than those in competing regions like Southeast Asia.

"This has resulted in decreased revenue and lower service quality, leading to a critically serious situation. By maintaining appropriate pricing and controlling the situation, we, as the master concessionaire of Mañagaha, will be able to ensure that these operators receive fair profits through our management," said MGI.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PALACIOS

From page 1

these things," he said.

After meeting with both parties, Palacios said they are now working on something mutually acceptable to SMA, CPA, and the communities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"We're working on this. We have to come up with something that is mutually acceptable to everybody," he said.

Saipan Tribune reached out to Star Marianas president Shaun Christian who said out of respect for Palacios, SMA is declining to comment on their meeting at this time.

Meanwhile, CPA is set for a special board meeting today to address what Palacios has discussed with them and SMA to, hopefully, come up with a resolve.

In a letter issued by SMA board chair Robert Christian to members of the CNMI leadership last week, SMA intends to terminate its scheduled air service in the CNMI by Oct. 15, 2024 should nothing be done about CPA's current fee structure (or means of collecting fees).

The letter was sent out to Palacios, Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, and Rota Mayor Aubry M. Hocog.

"Star Marianas Air, Inc. hereby provides notice of its intent to terminate all scheduled air service to/from the airports in Saipan (PGSN), Tinian (PGWT), and Rota (PGRO), effective Oct. 15, 2024, if a resolution to the current fee setting dispute with the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) cannot be found. This difficult decision is driven primarily by the unsustainable airport fee structure imposed by the CPA, which renders continued service economically unviable," he said.

Ultimately, Christian said he is urging the CNMI leadership to engage with the CPA and facilitate a dialogue to establish a transparent, equitable, and sustainable fee structure that ensures the continuation of vital air service to the community.

"We believe that immediate intervention is necessary to address this issue and ensure that our services can continue without disruption. We are prepared to work collaboratively to find a resolution that benefits all parties involved. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter," he said.

Tinian Mayor Aldan and Rota Mayor Hocog have since written to Star Marianas pleading for a resolve between CPA and SMA for the sake of their communities.

KILILI

From page 1

to federal compensation programs created for hospitals in rural or geographically isolated regions.

Sablan said in his *e-kilili* newsletter early this week that H.R. 9128 would provide enhanced Medicare payments based on reasonable costs to eligible territorial safety net hospitals.

This reimbursement rate, he said, is modeled after that of critical access hospitals elsewhere in the U.S.

The bill seeks to amend Title 18 of the Social Security Act to establish a designation for territorial safety net hospitals.

The bill was referred to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce; Committee on Ways and Means, and Committee on Budget.

H.R. 9127, on the other hand, defines disproportionate share hospitals in the territories as "covered entities" for purposes of the 340B prescription drug program.

Sablan said this drug program requires drug manufacturers to sell certain drugs at a discount to such covered entities, discounts that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. could then pass along to patients in the Marianas.

The bill proposes to amend Title 3 of the Public Health Service Act to include territorial disproportionate share hospitals as covered entities under the 340B drug discount program.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Delegate James C. Moylan (R-Guam) co-sponsored the two legislations.

NMTECH

From page 3

conditioning or HVAC, and construction trade prerequisite core courses.

"Those classes are going to run beginning this August. We do have an in-house scholarship from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., which if you qualify, could pay up to 99% of your classes. And also, we are partners with the Department of Labor WIOA, for the pre-apprenticeship program, which means they will pay for your tuition, pay you an hourly to go to school for every hour you're here, and pay you hourly for your internship. So, we have many programs, and practically, it's about 99% free for most of our classes. You just need to do the paperwork."

Babauta shared that registration will be open all the way until the classes' start date on Aug. 5. "Registration has begun, and we are looking to start classes on Aug. 5, which is right around the corner. So, we encourage everybody to come on down now, and you can still get certified before the end of the year."

DLNR

From page 3

in-depth view of the unique needs of ranchers in the community. The survey is ongoing on Saipan and will continue through the month of August, moving from south to north. So far, Animal Health staff has surveyed 20 ranchers. The survey will then be extended to Tinian and Rota.

The collected data will be instrumental in identifying the needs and challenges faced by ranchers, allowing the Animal Health Division to tailor its support and seek resources more effectively.

The survey will explore areas such as animal health needs, challenges faced by ranchers, animal reproduction, and more.

Ranchers' participation is crucial for the success of this initiative. By providing detailed and accurate information, they will contribute significantly to shaping the future of livestock and poultry programs in the region.

For more information about the survey or to participate, contact Animal Health at (670) 256-3319 or cnmianimalhealth@gmail.com. Additional information can also be found at https://dlnr.cnmi.gov/animal-rancher.html. ***(PR)***

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THROUGH 'ONE MARIANAS' PROJECT

4-H Marianas makes impact on community members with disabilities

Ismail Hossain and Kelly Zheng, two students from the CNMI and youth delegates of 4-H Marianas, concluded their "One Marianas" project, with Hossain attending the True Leaders in Equity Institute conference in Bethesda, Maryland alongside 4-H Marianas board member and TLEI co-advisor Chelsea Yangirelfil. The conference prepares delegations to become change agents within the Cooperative Extension System to create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for youth with disabilities.

Hossain and Zheng created the "One Marianas" project, a year-long project with the goal of building an inclusive environment for youth with disabilities in the CNMI. The two youth delegates identified an equity issue in their community, formulated a project framework for the following year, and created a 90-day action plan to implement when they return to the CNMI. The "One Marianas" project was created in collaboration with organizations such as Team Koka Foundation Tinian, the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and the CNMI Public School System Media Team, where they created videos to educate and bring awareness to their community.

NMC

4-H Youth delegate and co-project Leader Ismail Hossain shares the impact of the "One Marianas" project with fellow delegates at the True Leaders in Equity Institute Conference.

NMC

4-H Youth delegates at the True Leaders in Equity Institute interact with their peers and share ideas on initiatives for equity-related projects that will grow 4-H in their communities.

By the end of the year, Hossain and Zheng were able to publish two videos on Instagram and conduct a survey where they found that many youth with disabilities had a desire to feel included in their community, and parents of youth with disabilities felt that their child did not feel included in their community.

"Overall I felt that this project gave me a better understanding of what still can be done to build a better community. 4-H TLEI is all about challenging youth throughout the nation to inspire change within their community. This year-long project was without a doubt a great experience. I was able to learn more about myself and use the skills that I currently hold for a greater cause. I highly recommend that youth within our CNMI take this opportunity to experience what TLEI is all about, represent our islands at a National Level, and also inspire change within our Commonwealth," shared Hossain.

One of the two videos released by Hossain and Zheng highlighted various community members sharing their unique perspectives on the challenges faced by youth with disabilities, while the other showcased disability awareness advocate Monika Diaz, detailing her journey and aspirations for the future.

At the TLEI conference, Hossain presented his project results to over 140 youth delegates and began planning the next phase of the "One Marianas" project. Hossain was also able to connect with youth from different parts of the nation and learn about the initiatives they are conducting in their communities. This next phase aims to take the initiative on a more personal level through community outreach. The team will strive to collaborate with community partners and educate students on the current stigma within the CNMI community.

"TLEI was such a great opportunity for the youth to take part in creating an inclusive environment in their community. The youth exercised their skills in communication, collaboration, and taking the lead to successfully complete their project. They were also able to present their ideas to other youth members and gain meaningful feedback," said Chelsea Yangirelfil, TLEI co-advisor.

"It's inspiring to see our young people leading efforts to increase understanding and inclusion as we all benefit from creating an environment where youth with disabilities are seen, welcomed, and engaged," stated interim dean of NMC-CREES Patty Coleman. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2024-010

BID SUBMISSION DATE: August 27, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

200-foot Communication Tower for the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Project at Mt. Tapochau, Saipan

Project Package will be available on August 02, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan on **August 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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PUBLIC NOTICE

07/03/2024

Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Emergency Solution Grants

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 751	HESG	PY2021 HESG22 HMIS		$8,000.00	($6,443.93)	$1,556.07	$8,000.00
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			**($6,443.93)**		
IDIS# 749	HESG	PY2021 HESG21 Rapid Rehousing NMHC		$39,825.33	$3,700.00	$43,525.33	$39,825.33
IDIS# 750	HESG	PY2021 HSG Homeless Prevention NMHC		$26550.22	$2,743.93	$29,294.15	$26,550.22
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			**$6,443.93**		

Our agency, through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds from HMIS to a project activity, which constitutes as a substantial amendment. Therefore, any comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before August 05, 2024 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670)233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Sawatdee Nuat Thai Massage, LLC

THE POSITION: Masseuse

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 2

JOB DESCRIPTION: Perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints. May assist in the assessment of range of motion and muscle strength, or propose client therapy plans.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: None
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least twenty-four (24) months of relevant work experience as a Masseuse.

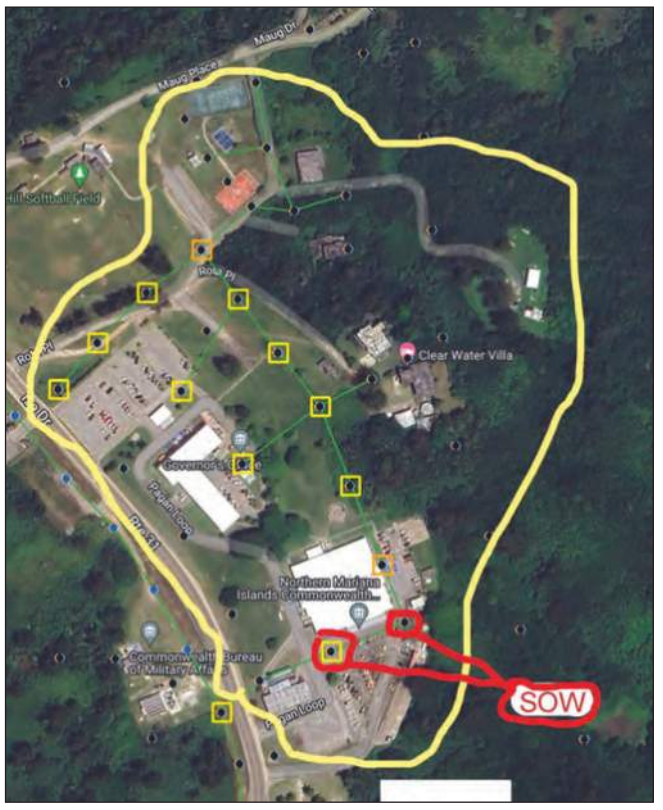
JOB LOCATION: Unit No. 1, Paradise Hotel, Pale Arnold Rd, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials, and application letter to:

APORNPHAN TAPWAN RODJARUN
Manager
SAWATDEE NUAT THAI MASSAGE, LLC

Office Address: Unit No. 1, Paradise Hotel, Pale Arnold Rd, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 139, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: sawatdeenuathai@gmail.com
Telephone Numbers: (670) 233-8424; (670) 285-8227

Scheduled power service interruptions from Aug. 2 to 14



CUC

The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption on Aug. 2, 2024.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power service interruptions on Aug. 2, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 14, 2024. See additional information below:

Friday, Aug. 2, 2024

- Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-3pm
- Area(s) Affected: Capitol Hill (Office of the Governor and Legislature Building
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Lights(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace two rotted, 45-foot wooden power poles with 45-foot concrete poles and connect a new power service for the Legislature Building.

Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024

- Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-1:30pm
- Area(s) Affected: San Vicente
- Water Wells(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace two rotted, 45-foot wooden power poles.

Friday, Aug. 9, 2024

- Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-12:30pm
- Area(s) Affected: Chalan Kanoa (Chief Nguschull St., partials of Simion Olopai Ave., and partials of Juan Tagabuel St.)
- Water Wells(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Lights(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 40-foot concrete pole and relocate the transformer.

Monday, Aug. 12, 2024

- Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-12:30pm
- Area(s) Affected: As Perdido (Iriko Dr., Agua Ln., and Lililok Pl.)
- Water Wells(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Lights(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 45-foot concrete pole with a 40-foot concrete pole.

Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024

Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-12:30pm

- Area(s) Affected: Beach Road, Garapan (Garapan Public Market)

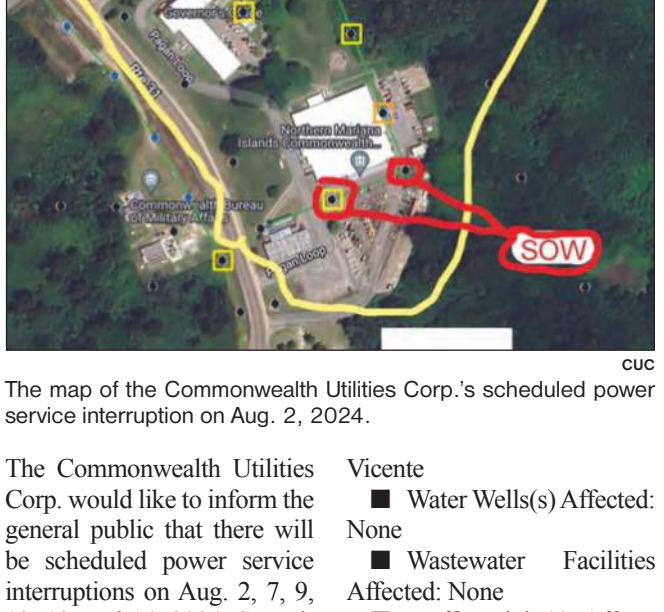
Momentary Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-9am and 12pm-12:30pm

- Area(s) Affected: Beach Road, Garapan (Seaside BBQ north to Horiguchi Building, and Garapan Public Market)
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: S-10
- Traffic Lights(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 45-foot wooden power pole with a 45-foot concrete pole.

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024

- Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-2:30pm
- Area(s) Affected: Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa (Traffic light near the U.S. Postal Service north to the Kanoa Resort)
- Water Wells(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: A-5
- Traffic Lights(s) Affected: Chalan Kanoa (near the U.S. Postal Service)
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 45-foot wooden power pole with a 45-foot concrete pole.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as it works to ensure reliable service for our customers. For more information, contact its hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***



CUC

The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption on Aug. 9, 2024.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Free and fair or fixed?—Venezuela's Maduro claims a dubious victory

The largest number of migrants streaming into the U.S. and to New York City are from Venezuela and so Americans are directly impacted by stability in that country. Now comes a suspicious election favoring President Nicolás Maduro, with his puppet electoral council granting him a dubious victory over challenger Edmundo González that could cause even more chaos there.

Maduro is a continuation of a regime, launched by Hugo Chávez, that has robbed Venezuelans of a chance to enjoy the vast wealth that the country could have generated with its vast oil reserves. Chávez was freely elected in 1998, with a promise to fix things.

He did not. Chávez was convinced that he and his party alone had the right and ability to govern the country, and moved to abolish the legislature and independent courts, muzzle the press and bring independent watchdogs and civil society to heel.

Programs that had initially relied on sky-high oil prices and to dent poverty and increase social services were not sustainable, and Chávez had increasingly little oversight and opposition to keep him in check and provide alternate governing visions. Quality of life plummeted, and every subsequent election got a little more suspect, until Maduro took over as Chavez's handpicked successor when Chávez died in 2013.

Now we find ourselves here, with international governments across Latin America casting doubt on this election, which takes place after Maduro used the levers of power to crack down on the opposition and bar opposition leader María Corina Machado from running at all. Venezuela once had free and fair elections, which is how Hugo Chávez first won.

But an unpopular president refusing to be voted out by the public is not something that only happens in Latin American countries. Let's not forget that the prior president of the United States tried to do the same four years ago. Donald Trump's Jan. 6 insurrection was a last-ditch effort to physically prevent the transfer of power, but his earlier attempts were rooted in using or trying to use the formal levers of power to tilt the outcome of the election in his direction.

Entreaties for the Georgia secretary of state to "find" enough votes to put him over the top are no different than Maduro leaning on his electoral council to fudge the numbers in his favor, or stop counting before they all come in.

The main difference is that Trump's gambit failed, in part because of the decentralized nature of U.S. elections. He could pressure state officials here and there and gin up fake electors, but he did not directly oversee the machinery of the election. Still, we shouldn't take it for granted that his coup did not succeed; a lot of people in different jobs around the country had to make the decision not to go along, and we're all lucky they did.

In this country, the rightful winner took power and we can only hope that the rightful winner in Venezuela, probably González, somehow manages to prevail over Maduro and his forces. Democracy requires people of good will on both sides; for the loser to accept the results and for the winner to rule within the bounds of the law.

And that's the same in English and Spanish.

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With a single word—'weird'—Democrats may have found Republicans' kryptonite

By MARY MCNAMARA
Los Angeles Times

Democrats may have finally found their magical talisman: One word (with apologies to J.R.R. Tolkien) to rule them all, one word to find them, one word to bring them all and in the darkness bind them.

And that word is "weird."

Last week, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz went viral with his observation that former president and current GOP nominee Donald Trump and his running mate J.D. Vance are "just weird." After Trump wildly attacked Vice President and leading Democratic candidate Kamala Harris on "Fox and Friends," the Harris campaign responded with a scathing press release titled "Statement on a 78-Year-Old Criminal's Fox News Appearance" that included in its bullet-point takeaways: "Trump is old and quite weird?"

Since then the word has become a byword among Harris supporters, used to describe everything from Trump's continued, and quite baffling, non sequiturs about "the late, great Dr. Hannibal Lecter" to Vance's openly misogynistic charges that the Democratic Party is run by "childless cat ladies" and that people who do not have biological children are sociopaths.

"Weird" is the new "weak"—and it is driving Republican leaders crazy.

That is telling in itself. Democrats have also used "felon," "rapist," "Nazi," "liar" and "fascist" to describe Trump, which most Republican leaders have simply taken in stride (felon being, of course, irrefutably true).

But "weird"? That conservative politicians and pundits think is childish and mean.

Which is pretty weird, when you think about it. Trump is nothing if not childish and mean, a man who prides himself on personally mocking anyone he perceives to oppose him. Even as former GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy wrote on X that "This whole 'they're weird' argument from the Democrats is dumb & juvenile," Trump was workshopping a derogatory nickname for Harris, as he has for his other rivals over the years. (Crazy and/or Laughing Kamala appear to be front-runners, along with various mispronunciations of her name.)

So why are "weird" and its increasingly popular cousin "creepy" freaking Republicans out in a way that "fascist" or "authoritarian" never did?

Power. "Weird" does not convey a sense of power. Indeed, in its current usage, it is a dismissive term, a labeling of bizarre behavior or beliefs that implies not a threat but a diminishment.

"Weird" is not a shout of outrage or fear, but a shrug of derision and disdain. "Stop being weird" is what one says when another's actions and attitudes are so ridiculous that it honestly isn't worth explaining why.

It is embraced, like "freak" or "geek," by those—most often associated with the left—who refuse to be cowed by traditional hierarchies or schoolyard bullies. But it is not a term of self-identification historically embraced by those who seek power, especially of the authoritarian variety.

As Trump and many of his supporters have made clear, they admire authoritarians, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un—"I think he misses me," Trump said at the Republican National Convention—as figures of strength. Trump has always campaigned on fear: of undocumented immigrants, "demolished" suburbs, restrictive gun laws, transgender children.

There is power in fear. In ridicule, not so much.

"Weird" takes fear out of the equation. As Walz said recently, "the fascists depend on fear… but we're not afraid of weird people. We're a little creeped out, but we're not afraid."

The Democrats' use of "weird" turns the Republicans' self-image on its head. For years, the GOP has positioned itself as the party of "real Americans," fighting to re-establish "real" American values. "Weird" points out how many of their positions, including but not limited to their antiabortion stance and historic refusal to support broader access to health- and childcare, put them at odds with a majority of Americans.

Vance's openly crackpot assertion that people who do not procreate are somehow less sane, and less American, than people who do is most definitely weird. As is Project 2025's demand

See KRYPTONITE on Page 9

With Supreme Court reform ideas, Biden is playing the long game

By HARRY LITMAN
Los Angeles Times

Harry Litman is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast and the "Talking San Diego" speaker series.

The first and easiest question to answer with respect to the package of Supreme Court reform measures that President Joe Biden announced Monday is whether there is any hope of their passage or enactment by the current Congress.

There is not.

With Congress hopelessly polarized and the Supreme Court hopelessly politicized, there is no chance of action on Biden's proposals in the coming months, and the administration well understands that point.

Indeed, before Biden even unveiled them in a speech at the LBJ Presidential Library in Texas, Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson pronounced them "dead on arrival."

Why then choose now to introduce them? After all, Biden has steadfastly resisted pleas from progressives to try to reform the court—and he has been under pressure since he took office, because President Donald Trump had just tilted the court to the right by appointing three justices.

The straightforward explanation for the timing is to make the Supreme Court, now quite possibly the most unpopular of all federal governmental institutions, a focus of the election, which would presumably nudge voters toward Vice President Kamala Harris.

It was no surprise (and presumably exactly what Biden and Harris wished) when Trump came out with a strident defense of the court.

But the proposals shouldn't be dismissed as a mere political gesture. Biden and the Democrats are also playing the long game, looking in particular to make the court a campaign issue. Then if they win control of both chambers and the White House, they can portray their election as a mandate for substantial reforms.

Biden's proposals are in three basic areas. First, ethics, responding to the series of scandals involving eyebrow-raising or nakedly partisan conduct by Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito. Second, time of service and method of appointment, which Biden proposes be changed to 18 years per justice and a fixed allotment of two new justices per presidential term. And third, the court's recent, stunningly broad immunity opinion in the Jan. 6 Trump prosecution brought by the Justice Department. Biden announced the reforms in a Washington Post op-ed that, interestingly, led with the immunity decision, which Biden wrote transgressed a bedrock principle of the nation: "No one is above the law."

Indeed it does, but Biden and Harris, who were quick to endorse the proposals, obviously have calculated that of all the court's recent unpopular moves, the immunity decision most offends the most American voters who might swing toward Harris.

Biden's proposal recognizes that the decision can be overcome only by a constitutional amendment. I think that's dubious; a careful reading of the Supreme Court's sweeping immunity decision suggests it is ultimately anchored in perceived good government principles dressed up as constitutional law.

The problem here, as in one way or another with all the proposals, is the firmly entrenched principle that the Supreme Court has the last word. (One thinks of Justice Robert Jackson's famous line "We are not final because we are infallible, but we are infallible only because we are final.")

So that leaves the famously cumbersome process of a constitutional amendment, which requires either two-thirds of both houses or the states to request and three-quarters of the states to ratify.

The most recent constitutional amendment, the 27th, took more than 200 years to ratify. The Equal Rights Amendment, which was first proposed in 1923 to guarantee the rights of Americans regardless of their sex, still has not passed.

The ethics provision of the Biden package probably has the strongest chance of passing. It is conspicuous that the Supreme Court justices—alone among government officials—get to make and apply their own rules on issues such as whether they can take or must disclose gifts from parties who may have an agenda with the court. Although the court adopted ethics rules for itself last fall, they have no teeth. Justice Elena Kagan just last week called for the rules to be subject to an enforcement regime other than the justices themselves.

But in my view, the most important component of Biden's package is his proposal to change Supreme Court terms from lifetime to 18 years, and, with the consistent rhythm of that span, guarantee each president precisely two appointments.

The design of the reform is to obviate the Armageddon quality of current confirmation battles. Lifetime appointments create very high stakes, leading to carefully curated fairly young nominees who can serve 40 years or more and have enormous, longstanding influence, as with the relatively young cadre of Trump appointees.

Term limits would prevent the imbalance that results if one president makes many appointments and others make few. Democrats are understandably frustrated at the bad luck—and GOP obstructionism—that allowed Republican presidents to choose six of the current nine justices, in a country in which more people identify as Democrats than as Republicans and in which Democratic presidential candidates have won the popular vote in seven of the last eight elections.

This proposal would do nothing to alleviate the current imbalance. Progressives had been pushing Biden to instead propose four additional seats on the court to undo the current uber-conservative hammerlock. The Constitution permits such an expansion, but the history of FDR's court packing plan and similar efforts obviously persuaded Biden that the approach would freight the package with political controversy and long odds that would diminish the clean appeal of the rest of the provisions.

As for the court, today's proposals only reinforce the grave loss of confidence it has brought on with its own overreaching. As a matter of raw power, it can continue on its path and remain oblivious to its many self-inflicted wounds. But Supreme Court history teaches that whatever its recognized authority in individual cases, it is untenable for it to operate indefinitely so against the grain of the American people.

As Alito said in an overheard comment, "one side or the other is going to win."

Man up, MAGA. White Dudes for Harris are here

By LORRAINE ALI
Los Angeles Times

A mob of white men in the thousands amassed in a show of solidarity for their presidential candidate of choice, and no violence ensued. Not one broken window, makeshift noose or whiff of bear spray.

But this rally wasn't for him. It was for her.

White Dudes for Harris hosted a Zoom fundraiser Monday in support of the vice president and her bid to win the White House. The online event raised over $4 million, drew 200,000 attendees and inspired a slew of jokes.

"What a variety of whiteness we have here," actor Bradley Whitford ("Handmaid's Tale," "West Wing") said in his opening remarks. "It's like a rainbow of beige."

Leveraging identity politics for campaign cash is nothing new, but bringing together a bunch of white men to counter MAGA's dire warnings — "White guys will be replaced if the Dems win!"—is genius.

Democratic organizer Ross Morales Rocketto was behind the effort, and according to the New York Times, acknowledged the discomfort some might feel about the group's name.

"I don't blame them," he said. "Throughout American history, there's a lot of evidence to suggest that when white men organize, it's often with pointy hats on, and it doesn't end well."

If only the Ku Klux Klan were a thing of the past.

But who better to counter such hate than these other white dudes and their de facto leader: Jeff Bridges? The actor who played the Dude in "The Big Lebowski" kicked off the video call by referring to a White Dudes for Harris hat he saw online.

"I qualify. I am white. I am a dude. And I love Harris," he said. Bridges also worked in his "Lebowski" character's catchphrase: "As the Dude might say, 'That's just my opinion, man.'"

Co-opting the other side's identity politics and then wringing the absurdity of their messaging for all it's worth marks a new day for Democrats. The former fear and angst over President Biden's low polling numbers has given way to a fresh enthusiasm since he announced he was leaving the race, and Harris stepped in.

Racist and sexist attacks from the right on Harris—including those by Congressman Tim Burchett, R-Tenn., and others who called her a "DEI hire"—are being repurposed and weaponized by the left. A "Cat Ladies for Harris" Zoom call is in the works, taking its name from the insult hurled at Harris from Trump's running mate, JD Vance, who called the vice president a"childless cat lady."

The white dudes took their cues from previous Zoom fundraisers for Harris that were organized around racial identities. "Win With Black Women," a group of high-profile Black women, raised $1.5 million for Harris in the hours after Biden announced he was stepping out of the race. Other groups who've gathered to support and donate to Harris include Black men, South Asian Americans and white women.

Monday's dude attendees and speakers included Gov. Tim Walz of Minnesota, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Gov. Roy Cooper of North Carolina and Gov. J.B. Pritzker of Illinois.

Actor Mark Hamill delivered his classic "Star Wars" line: "I'm Luke Skywalker. I'm here to rescue you." Other celebrities included actors Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Mark Ruffalo, Josh Gad, Sean Astin and Paul Scheer, director J.J. Abrams and singer Josh Groban.

But it was Democratic organizer Rocketto who best summed up the reason for the gathering. "The left has been ceding white men to the MAGA right for way, way too long," he said. "That's going to stop tonight because we know that the silent majority of white men aren't actually MAGA supporters. They're folks like you who just want a better life for their families."

And they made their point without storming the Capitol or shooting up a Black Lives Matter demonstration. Righteous, dudes.

KRYPTONITE

From page 8

that a two-person, male-led, heterosexual, cisgender nuclear family should be the American standard. Republican leaders' obsession with the "dangers" of drag queens, transgender people and the LGBTQ community in general makes them the outliers in a society that, particularly among its younger members, is generally supportive and accepting.

Republicans' instant move to call Harris a low-IQ, "DEI" (diversity, equity and inclusion) candidate has even met with resistance from within the right-wing media bubble. Fox's Neil Cavuto recently pushed back against Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., over his personally insulting remarks about Harris, pointing out that such comments could hurt the Trump campaign in November. Kennedy, with whom this clearly did not compute, continued to double down.

Which is definitely—say it with me now—"weird."

"Weird" makes it clear that Trump and his surrogates are the ones outside the norm, that their rhetoric and proposed policies deviate so far from what many Americans want from their leaders as to appear absurd. Trump, who is now regularly deriding Harris' laugh, is not a fan of laughter. As many have now pointed out, he rarely laughs, and never at himself.

"Weird" doesn't just refute Trump's MAGA stance, it also, and this is important, defuses it. Drains both the messengers, and their messages, of power. It's weird that Trump doesn't think America is a great nation. It's weird that he wants to be president of a democracy when he doesn't believe the democratic process works.

For the Democratic Party, it is also a powerful reclamation. Though the registered (if not always voting) majority, Democrats are still too often dogged by charges of being "radical" or "fringe." Now they appear to be flipping the narrative.

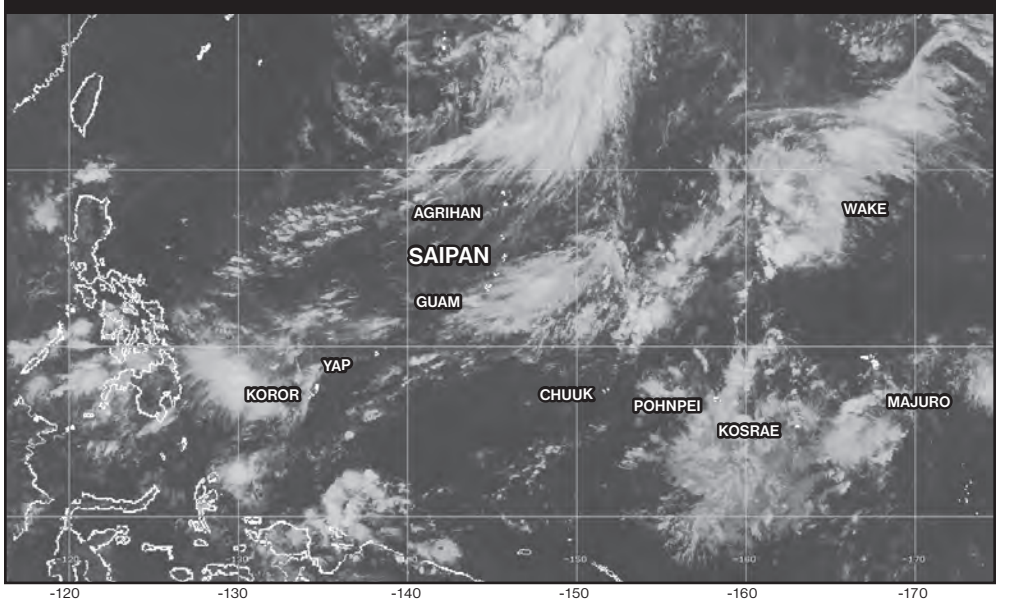
Harris is the "normal" American. It's Trump and Vance who are weird.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:40 AM THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

We`ve been expecting scattered showers, and they`re here. Looks like they will be sticking around for a while also. This was handled well in the forecast so no changes were needed. An AWW was issued earlier, which didn`t really seem to pan out. Lightning was close though, so it wasn`t unwarranted. Look for more as the day passes, and the next several days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Showers	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 36°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	83° / 68°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 59°
Busan	Showers	82° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 73°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	87° / 69°
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 55°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°
Tokyo	Rain	84° / 73°
Washington, DC	Sunny	87° / 68°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:35 AM	5:11 PM	-
Saturday	4:33 AM	6:02 PM	-
Sunday	5:30 AM	6:47 PM	-
Monday	6:24 AM	7:27 PM	-
Tuesday	7:14 AM	8:04 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:12 AM	Low Tide	1.50
4:45 AM	High Tide	1.96
12:32 PM	Low Tide	-0.16
7:59 PM	High Tide	1.95

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
7C2306/3472	11:10PM	4:40PM+1	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Cantor meets Hawaii Lt. Gov. Luke to announce $375K in preventive brown tree snake funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor met with Hawaii Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke to announce $375,000 in Brown Tree Snake Control Program funding and ongoing efforts to prevent the introduction of the BTS to Hawaii from Guam. Hawaii Department of Agriculture officials also attended the meeting.

This year, the Office of Insular Affairs is providing a total of $3,660,513 in BTS Control Program funding for federal, state, and territorial partners in ongoing efforts to control the BTS on Guam and prevent it from spreading to Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and elsewhere in the region.

"I was honored to meet with Lt. Gov. Luke and Department of Agriculture leadership to help bring awareness to the ongoing support to prevent the spread of the brown tree snake to Hawaii," said Cantor. "We recognize the importance of agricultural biosecurity for the State of Hawai'i and the vigilance necessary to protect a fragile environment and to prevent the accidental introduction of another high-risk invasive species like the BTS."

"Thank you to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Assistant Secretary Cantor, and our Hawaii Department of Agriculture for the coordinated effort to protect our unique biodiversity," said Luke. "As Hawaii continues to fight against the spread of invasive species, Federal, state, and local partnerships are critical to control risks of pests and secure Hawaii's biosecurity borders."

Efforts to fight the BTS are successful due to the collaboration among many partners, to whom OIA announces the distribution of fiscal year 2024 funding as follows:

Brown Tree Snake funding allocations to federal, state, and territorial partners for FY 2024 total $3,660,513 and broke down as follows:

- $1,475,312—U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-APHIS Wildlife Services for the Guam BTS Interdiction Program.
- $928,000—USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center for rapid-response activities and related BTS research.
- $480,000—CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources for the CNMI BTS Interdiction Program.
- $402,201—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office to provide regional and national program coordination.
- $375,000—Hawaii Department of Agriculture for the Hawai'i Detector Dog and BTS Interdiction Program.

Since its accidental introduction on Guam after World War II and without natural predators on Guam, the BTS has caused the drastic decline of native bird populations on-island, causing cascading ecological consequences that threaten forest resiliency and other natural systems on Guam. Every year, the BTS causes ground faults and short circuits that result in power outages. BTS toxins from bites also present health and safety concerns for infants and young children.

It is estimated that thousands of BTS are caught and removed every year from the civilian air and seaport in Guam which is the main U.S. transportation hub with direct flights to Hawaii from the Western Pacific. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Wildlife Research Center estimates that the accidental introduction of BTS to Hawaii could result in between $593 million and $2.14 billion in annual economic damage.

With this critical funding support that is provided by Congress every year, Interior continues to work closely with federal, state, and territorial partners to mitigate the BTS threat on Guam and to prevent the spread of this invasive species to the Northern Mariana Islands, the Micronesia region, and the State of Hawaii.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. ***(PR)***

GCC Fall registration ongoing through Aug. 16

Registration for Guam Community College's Fall semester will continue through Friday, Aug. 16, 2024. New and returning students can either register online at GuamCC.edu/apply or on campus at the Administration Building (#2000) between 8am and 5pm, Monday through Friday. Continuing students can register for classes online using their MyGCC login credentials.

Earlier this month, GCC announced the availability of Free College, allowing a total of 80 students to attend their first year for free. Interested individuals looking to gain hands-on education in the career fields of Construction Trades, Information Technology, Accounting, or Education are welcome to fill out an application at guamcc.edu/freecollege. GCC's Free College will cover tuition and fees for students who complete the full two-year program. For applicants who qualify for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA), the Free College program will help pay fees and costs not covered by FAFSA. Each program will accept a maximum of 20 students.

To complete your registration process, please provide the following:

- Valid photo identification card
- High School transcripts
- Shot record (for health clearance)
- Tax Year 2022 documents (for financial aid)

The last day to add or drop classes, make payment, or get on a payment plan is also Friday, Aug. 9, 2024 by 5pm. For more registration information, contact the GCC Admissions Office at (671) 735-5531 or email gcc.registrar@guamcc.edu. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
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AMENDED NOTICE OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special Board of Directors meeting is being called on Friday, August 2, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

III. **SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):**
1. Comptroller Contract
2. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport Air-conditioning Unit
3. Star Marianas Air

IV. **MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

JOSE C. AYUYU
Chairman, Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

AIRLINE STAIRS & AMBULIFT MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRSFRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-010-24

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its airline stairs and ambulift truck at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluate by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning July 12, 2024, upon payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or credit card to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

July 12, 2024
Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-016-24
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 30, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JULY 23, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION **(IFB-016-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 30, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: 7/23/2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-007-24-(REPACKAGED)

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"PROVIDE & INSTALL SIX (6) BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS AT THE FRANCISCO M. BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JULY 08, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR BID IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "PROVIDE & INSTALL SIX (6) BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS, **(IFB-007-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 07, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

NASA Guam Space Grant intern helps uncover Palau's hidden history with LiDAR technology

Thomas Torres II, a professional intern with the NASA Guam Space Grant program at the University of Guam and a member of the University of Guam Drone Corps, recently played a crucial role in a groundbreaking two-week mission to map ancient man-made terraces in Palau. As part of his internship with 2cofly, a local drone service provider, Torres and the team utilized drones and advanced LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology to uncover these hidden historical sites.

The mission, led by resident archaeologist Dr. Jolie Liston and funded by the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, aimed to map around 3,000 acres of ancient terraces in the state of Aimeliik, providing detailed data about these historical cultivation sites. Drone surveys of the terraces, which have been covered by thick tropical vegetation over the past thousands of years, will help researchers better understand these landforms' significance as they relate to Palau's historical culture, infrastructure, agriculture, defense systems, ceremonies, and rituals.

"The objective of the project is to increase the cultural, social, and economic value of Palau's monumental earthwork landscape to preserve the legacy of this significant cultural heritage for future generations," Liston said. "This goal will be accomplished through an integrated approach combining remote sensing, archaeological field work, and oral history collection, all of which include education and capacity-building components."

The use of drones equipped with LiDAR sensors allow laser pulses to penetrate the vegetation to reveal the ancient topography underneath. Compared to past plane-based surveys, the drone and LiDAR technology combination offers several advantages, including the ability to survey large areas and to sense beneath dense vegetation with higher efficiency and accuracy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thomas Torres II sets up an RTK base station during the LiDAR mapping campaign in Palau.

The collected data was processed to create detailed 3D models of the terraces and a high-resolution digital terrain model. These models reveal the structure and extent of the terraces with unprecedented clarity, offering significant benefits for archaeological research and conservation efforts.

Despite initial challenges with the weather, technology, and terrain, Torres found the campaign incredibly fulfilling.

"Learning about the forgotten history of the terraces was incredibly intriguing, especially since most people wouldn't think much about them," he said. "It was astonishing that there are no oral accounts of them, despite Palau's deep roots in oral history."

Torres, who attends Guam Community College as a civil engineering technology student, credits the University of Guam Drone Corps and NASA Guam Space Grant programs for preparing him with essential skills in drone operation, safety precautions, and fieldwork.

"Participating in cohort three of the Drone Corps program helped me learn the necessary skills to confidently handle a drone," he said. "Through the NASA Guam Space Grant internship program, I was able to intern with 2cofly and be a part of many missions in Guam."

Through their efforts with Liston's project, Torres and the 2cofly team aim to not only highlight the island's ancient terraces, but also inspire future generations to value and protect their historical environments. The detailed data from this mission is expected to be shared with major publications, bringing global attention to Palau's remarkable environment and encouraging further archaeological research and preservation efforts.

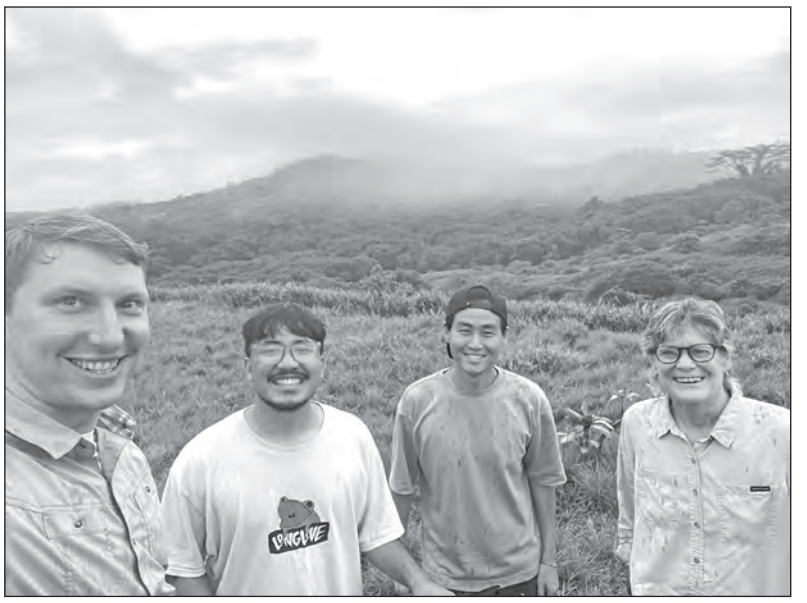
The UOG Drone Corps is accepting internship applications for the Fanuchånan 2024 semester until Aug. 2, 2024. In addition to the Professional Internship Pathway, the program also offers Research and Teaching Internships. Participants receive a stipend totaling $3,000 per semester with an opportunity to extend into a second semester for a total of $6,000 per academic year. Interested applicants can apply at bit.ly/ngsg2024 or reach out to Keanno Fausto at faustok9679@triton.uog.edu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The mapping team poses with their fleet of DJI M350 RTK drones equipped with LiDAR sensors in Aimeliik, Palau.

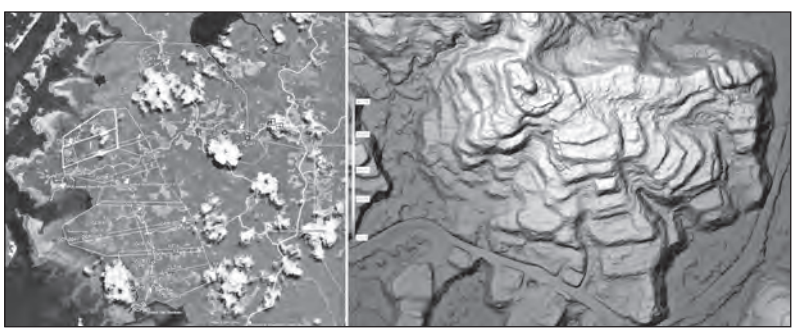
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thomas Torres II operates a DJI M350 RTK equipped with a LiDAR sensor during a mapping mission in Aimeliik, Palau.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The campaign team takes a group photo during a mapping mission in Aimeliik, Palau. From left, Anthony Herman, Thomas Torres II, Dong Won Lee, and Jolie Liston.

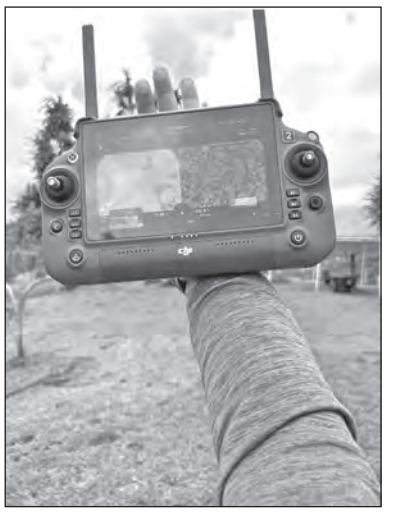


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left image, flight planning using Google Earth software. Right image, one of the many processed areas using DJI Terra software.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thomas Torres II hauls a drone case in rainy weather during a mapping mission in Aimeliik, Palau.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A DJI drone remote controller displaying a side-by-side comparison of the LiDAR data and the RGB imagery of a terrace in Ameliik, Palau.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A DJI M350 RTK drone hovers over Aimeliik state.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aerial imagery of one of the many terraces in Aimeliik, Palau.

About NASA Guam Space Grant

The NASA Guam Space Grant at the University of Guam is a member of the University of Hawaii Space Grant Consortium, participating in the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program and administering the University Research Internship program. NGSG aims to inspire and train future generations of professionals in understanding, utilizing, exploring, and investigating both space and Earth through research and internships. Led by faculty of the Micronesian Area Geospatial Information Center lab at UOG's Western Pacific Tropical Research Center, the program supports educational initiatives focusing on STEM topics as they support NASA's missions. ***(PR)***

Business

Micronesia Mall marks 36 years with epic Tower for Humanity build

TOWER FOR HUMANITY

Kids and families are welcome to volunteer for the build from Aug. 1 to 8, 2024 at the Micronesia Mall.

Micronesia Mall is gearing up for its 36th anniversary.

To commemorate this event, Micronesia Mall has partnered with the Tower for Humanity team, featuring the Guinness World Record-holding brothers Brandon and Landon Aydlett, who will be constructing a 30-foot replica of New York City's Empire State Building out of toy timber logs in the Micronesia Mall Center Court from Aug. 1 to 8, 2024– their tallest and most epic build yet.

Throughout the construction period, volunteers from the community of all ages are encouraged to assist with the building process to complete this ambitious project, organized in support of the Mall's selected nonprofit partners: Alee Shelters, Harvest House, and Victim Advocates Reaching Out. These nonprofit organizations were selected by the Mall for their efforts in serving children in need and providing essential programs and services for families.

Alee Shelters, Harvest House, and Victim Advocates Reaching Out will be stationed in the Center Court throughout the build, raising awareness about their causes and collecting donations through the Sponsor-A-Log initiative.

Micronesia Mall also invites the community to attend the Mall's 36th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024 from 12pm to 3pm in the Micronesia Mall Center Court which will kick off with a ribbon-cutting and tower-lighting ceremony, followed by live entertainment, games, giveaways, and grand prize drawings of three free roundtrip tickets from Guam to Manila on Philippine Airlines, courtesy of Goodwind Travel—one ticket given away every hour!

Attendees 18 years or older can register for free on the day of the event starting at 10am in the Center Court for a chance to win the amazing grand prizes. Participants must be present to win. Other terms and conditions apply.

The event will also include live entertainment from World Theater Productions (including a Lion King Jr. performance), the Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Elite Guam Dance Academy, and Tatuha Hula/Fire/Cultural Dancers. Additional acts will be confirmed soon. Attendees can also look forward to exciting giveaways from sponsors like Burger King, Naturally Nourished, and Vitamin World, among others.

"Thank you, Guam, for 36 years! The Mall has been privileged to serve our community—offering fun, entertainment, and cherished family moments. We invite families to come out to this event, which is a celebration of community spirit and giving back. We also invite everyone to participate, whether by volunteering for the build, donating to our nonprofit partners, enjoying the free, fun, and family-friendly festivities on Aug. 10, or all of the above! We eagerly anticipate many more years as your one-stop destination for shopping, dining, and recreation and look forward to organizing more exciting projects and events for everyone to enjoy," said Jeselyn "Gigi" Tan Yu, president and CEO of Goodwind Development Corp. (parent company of Micronesia Mall).

"Don't miss your chance to be part of this unprecedented project– and help us reach new heights together!" she added.

For more information about Micronesia Mall's upcoming events and promotions, visit Micronesia Mall's website, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

Seeking volunteers!

Want to be part of this unique project and help us build the tower? The Tower for Humanity team is looking for volunteers! Visit us in the Center Court or get in touch with Tower for Humanity on Facebook and Instagram at @towerforhumanity. ***(PR)***

TOWER FOR HUMANITY

Volunteers add blocks to the Towers for Tots structure in 2022. The community is invited to volunteer for the build from Aug. 1 to 8, 2024.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Juan Diego Deleon Guerrero King

Born on January 12, 1962 and was called to his eternal rest on Friday July 26, 2024 at the age of 62.

In his new life, he now joins:

PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS: †Isidro King
†Vicente & †Consolacion SN. Hocog

MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS: †Juan S. & †Francisca R. Deleon Guerrero ("Beya")

PARENTS: †Jose San Nicolas & †Carmen Deleon Guerrero King

GRANDDAUGHTER: †Maiyah Aurora Cabrera King

His peaceful spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

CHILDREN and SPOUSE (GRANDCHILDREN):
John Junior M. & Gloria C. King (Darren Zane; †Maiyah Aurora; Sebastian Jon)
Art Joseph M. & Cyril King (Catherine Ada)
Valerie Jean M. King & Francis Pineda
Chelsea Arlene M. King & Robert Resma
Clarissa Louise M. King (Shiloh Luka)
Joshua M. King
Christine Lorraine M. King
Steve Joseph R. King (Aria Scarlette)

SIBLINGS and IN-LAWS:
Mary Ann DLG. K. & Mark Wulfing & Family
Edward DLG. & Toy King & Family
Patricia DLG. King & Family
Agnes K. & James Ripple & Family
Rose Marie K. & Randolph Navarro
Raymond DLG. King & Family
Joseph DLG. King

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:
Rosita S. Atalig

Our beloved Juan Diego is survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Daily mass is being held at St. Jude at 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday and at 8:00 a.m. Sunday. On Monday, August 5, 2024, at 7:30 a.m. our beloved †Juan Diego will be escorted from the Cabrera Funeral Home to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso, Rosary, and Viewing will follow upon arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase,
Children and Family

Nation

IN ELECTION-YEAR PITCH TO FAMILIES

Senate Democrats tee up vote on child tax credit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic Senate Leader Chuck Schumer is daring Republicans to vote against a bipartisan tax cut package aimed at expanding the child tax credit for millions of families and restoring some business tax breaks.

And Republicans appear prepared to do just that on Thursday, with many arguing they will have more leverage to enact the tax changes they want if their party wins control of the White House and both chambers of Congress in November's election. Large parts of the tax cut package passed under Republican control in 2017 are set to expire after 2025, pushing tax issues to the forefront.

"I think we can do better next year," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

It's expected to be the final vote senators will take before heading home for the August recess, and underscores how both parties are trying to spotlight issues they believe will play well with voters in November. Democrats are also looking to counter assertions from Donald Trump's running mate, Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, that Democrats are "anti-family."

"The American people will get a chance to see which senators in reality support tax relief for parents and businesses and housing, and who opposes it," Schumer said.

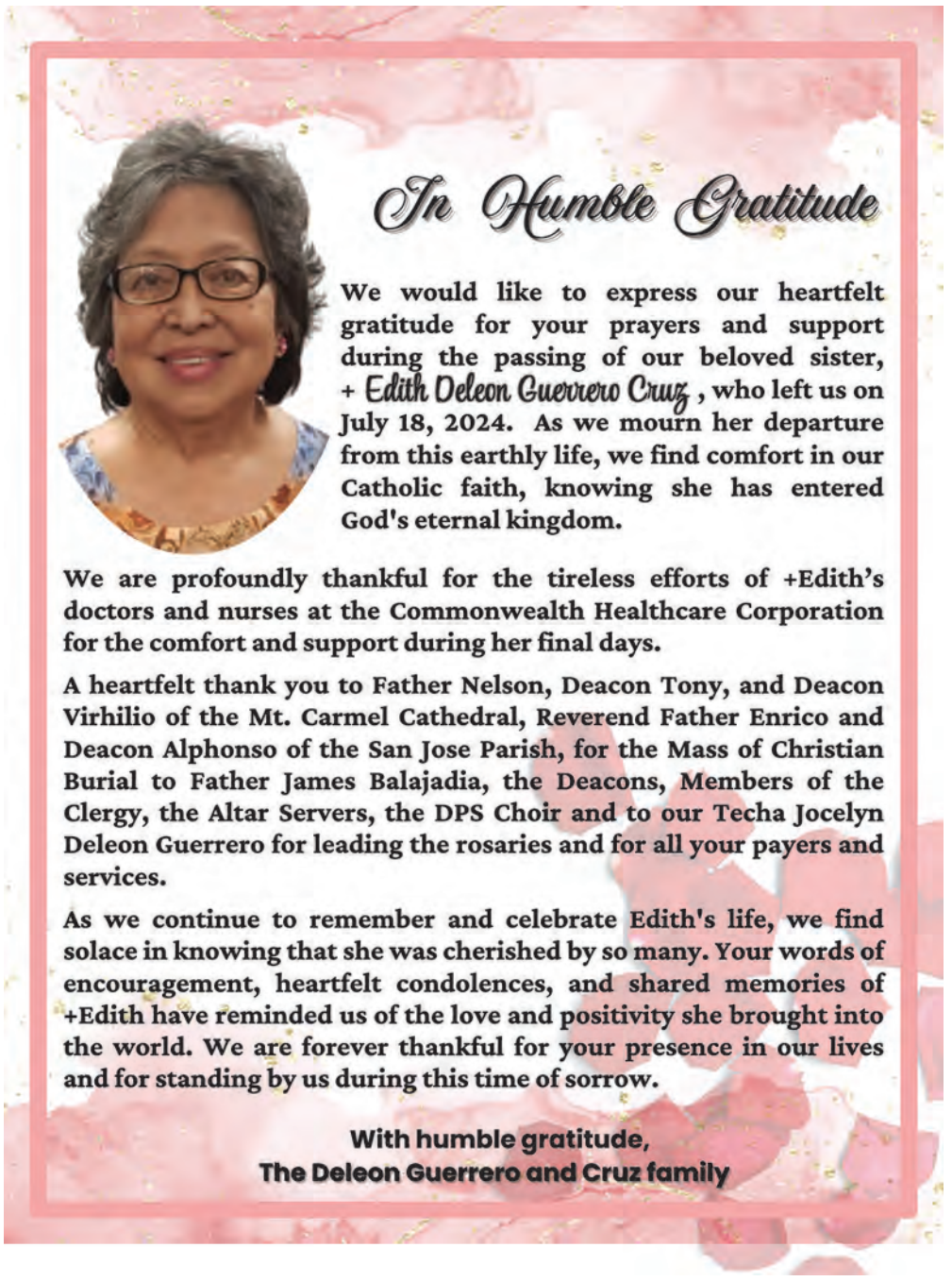
The roughly $79 billion package passed the House overwhelmingly in January, 357-70. But it has stalled in the Senate. The procedural vote to advance the measure will require support from 60 senators, which is unlikely.

The bill was fashioned through negotiations by Rep. Jason Smith, the Republican chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Sen. Ron Wyden, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. It would restore full, immediate deductions that businesses can take for the purchase of new equipment and machinery, and for domestic research and development expenses. It also would help more low-income families take fuller advantage of the child tax credit.

The changes in the child tax credit would lift as many as 500,000 out of poverty when the proposal is fully in effect, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. In all, the families of some 16 million children would benefit, the liberal think tank said.

The bill is paid for by speeding up the cut-off date by which companies could submit retroactive claims for employees they kept on the payrolls during the COVID pandemic. The IRS has said a significant majority of retroactive claims are at a high risk of fraud.

With the bill seemingly lacking the support necessary to overcome procedural hurdles, Schumer had opted for months not to bring it up for a vote. But election season has presented an opportunity for Democrats to lean in on the issue as well as put the spotlight on Vance. Schumer even referenced "the junior senator from Ohio" when speaking on the Senate floor, leaving no doubt he's part of their thinking in holding the vote.


In Humble Gratitude
We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and support during the passing of our beloved sister, + Edith Deleon Guerrero Cruz , who left us on July 18, 2024. As we mourn her departure from this earthly life, we find comfort in our Catholic faith, knowing she has entered God's eternal kingdom.
We are profoundly thankful for the tireless efforts of +Edith's doctors and nurses at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation for the comfort and support during her final days.
A heartfelt thank you to Father Nelson, Deacon Tony, and Deacon Virhilio of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Reverend Father Enrico and Deacon Alphonso of the San Jose Parish, for the Mass of Christian Burial to Father James Balajadia, the Deacons, Members of the Clergy, the Altar Servers, the DPS Choir and to our Techa Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero for leading the rosaries and for all your payers and services.
As we continue to remember and celebrate Edith's life, we find solace in knowing that she was cherished by so many. Your words of encouragement, heartfelt condolences, and shared memories of +Edith have reminded us of the love and positivity she brought into the world. We are forever thankful for your presence in our lives and for standing by us during this time of sorrow.
With humble gratitude,
The Deleon Guerrero and Cruz family

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran, Iran says

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said early Wednesday. No one immediately claimed responsibility but suspicion quickly fell on Israel, which has vowed to kill Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders over the group's Oct. 7 attack on Israel that sparked the war in Gaza. Haniyeh was in Tehran to attend Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday. He was killed hours later by a predawn airstrike, which Iran says is under investigation. The country's supreme leader has vowed revenge against Israel. Israel carried out a strike in Lebanon on Tuesday that it said killed Fouad Shukur, a top Hezbollah military commander whom the United States blames for planning and launching the deadly 1983 Marine bombing in the Lebanese capital. Hezbollah confirmed the death Wednesday. Haniyeh left the Gaza Strip in 2019 and had lived in exile in Qatar. The top Hamas leader in Gaza is Yahya Sinwar, who masterminded the Oct. 7 attack. Haniyeh's killing comes at a precarious time. U.S. President Joe Biden's administration has tried to push Hamas and Israel to agree to at least a temporary cease-fire and hostage release deal for the Israel-Hamas war. Senior officials from the U.S., Israel, Qatar and Egypt were set to meet for the latest round of talks. Though Hezbollah issued a rare denial of involvement in the rocket attack Saturday in the town of Majdal Shams, Israel holds the militant group responsible. "Hezbollah crossed a red line," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant posted on the platform X shortly after Tuesday's strike. ***(AP)***

Venezuela's Maduro asks top court to audit the presidential election, but observers cry foul

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Nicolás Maduro on Wednesday asked Venezuela's high court to conduct an audit of the presidential election after opposition leaders disputed his claim of victory, drawing criticism from foreign observers who said the court is too close to the government to produce an independent review. Maduro told reporters that the ruling party is also ready to show all the vote tally sheets from Sunday's election. "I throw myself before justice," he said outside the Supreme Tribunal of Justice headquarters in the capital, Caracas, adding that he is "willing to be summoned, questioned, investigated." This is Maduro's first concession to demands for more transparency about the election. However, the court is closely aligned with his government; the court's justices are proposed by federal officials and ratified by the National Assembly, which is dominated by Maduro sympathizers.

Hopes of finding more survivors in the mud and debris wane after landslides in India kill 194

WAYANAD, India (AP)—Hopes of finding more than 180 missing people alive waned as rescue workers searched through mud and debris for a third day Thursday after landslides set off by torrential rains killed at least 194 people in southern India. The rescue work was challenging in a forested, hilly area while more rain fell, said P.M Manoj, a spokesman for Kerala state's top elected official. Nearly 40 bodies were found downstream after being swept some 30 kilometers (20 miles) down the Chaliyar River from the area in Wayanad district where the main landslides occurred. Body parts were also recovered. Torrents of mud and water swept through tea estates and villages in hilly areas in the district early Tuesday. They flattened houses and destroyed bridges, and rescuers had to pull out people stuck under mud and debris. "This is one of the worst natural calamities Kerala state has ever witnessed," Kerala's top elected official, Pinarayi Vijayan, said. Manoj said 187 people were unaccounted for as of Thursday. In addition to the dead and missing, 186 people were injured. Local media reported most of the victims were tea estate workers.

Hezbollah confirms a top commander was killed in Israeli strike in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP)—The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah confirmed Wednesday that Israel killed a top commander after a rare strike in Beirut. The Iran-backed group said earlier that Fouad Shukur was in the building during the attack on Tuesday, and they were searching for him in the rubble to determine his fate. Hezbollah's announcement came after an overnight strike in Tehran that killed Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, which Hamas and Iran blamed on Israel. Israel said late Tuesday that it had killed Shukur, who it said was behind the weekend rocket attack in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights that killed 12 youths. The United States also blames Shukur for staging and planning a bombing of a Marine Corps barrack in Lebanon in 1983 that killed 241 American service members. The Lebanese Health Ministry said at least five civilians—two children and three women—died in the strike in a busy neighborhood where Hezbollah has political and security operations. Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged fire since Oct. 8, a day after Hamas attacked southern Israel and sparked the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

British police charge 17-year-old with murder over a stabbing attack that killed 3 children

LONDON (AP)—British police said Thursday they have charged a 17-year-old with murder over a stabbing attack that left three little girls dead and several more in critical condition. The charges came as the traumatized town of Southport cleaned up after a bout of far-right violence, and agitators fired up by anger and misinformation clashed with police near the prime minister's residence in London. The Merseyside Police force said the teenager, who has not been named because of his age, faces three counts of murder and 10 of attempted murder over people injured in the attack during a Taylor Swift-themed summer holiday dance and yoga class. He is due to appear in court in Liverpool later Thursday. About two dozen children were attending the summer vacation workshop on Monday when an attacker with a knife burst in. Alice Dasilva Aguiar, 9, Elsie Dot Stancombe, 7, and Bebe King, 6, died from their injuries. Ten other people were injured, among whom five girls and two adults are in critical condition. Far-right demonstrators have launched several violent protests, ostensibly in response to the attack, clashing with police outside a mosque in Southport on Tuesday.

Life & Style

German city renamed 'Swiftkirchen' for Swift concerts gets 1,400 bids for signs

BERLIN (AP)—The German city of Gelsenkirchen, which temporarily renamed itself "Swiftkirchen" before the American superstar played three concerts there in mid-July, said Wednesday it received about 1,400 bids from Germany and abroad for signs it put up with the name.

The new name was one of a flurry of fan attractions around the concerts on July 17, 18 and 19. The city then held an auction for 20 original "Swiftkirchen" signs.

The highest offer was 3,000 euros ($3,245), and the 20 highest bidders will be informed by email, the city said in a statement, adding that a total sum for the auction will be announced once all payments have been received. It said one of the winning bids came from outside Germany, but didn't specify where.

AP

Schoolgirl Aleshanee Westhoff shows a "Swiftkirchen" town sign in honor of musician Taylor Swift in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

The proceeds will go to a center for girls, a food bank for children and a shelter for women in Gelsenkirchen.

Another "Swiftkirchen" sign is now on display at Germany's museum of post-World War II history in Bonn, the Haus der Geschichte, the city said.

A former coal mining city, Gelsenkirchen is one of Germany's poorest. It's known for the soccer team Schalke, a traditional heavyweight currently in the second division, and its stadium, which sometimes attracts international entertainers like Swift.

MrBeast acknowledges past 'inappropriate language' as controversies swirl

NEW YORK (AP)—MrBeast, YouTube's biggest star and a philanthropic force with nearly unrivaled influence among young audiences, acknowledged Wednesday that he used "inappropriate language" in his early online days, as numerous controversies bubbled up around him and a former collaborator.

MrBeast, whose real name is Jimmy Donaldson, and his reported $700 million empire have come under new fire in recent weeks after accusations of past racist comments by Donaldson surfaced along with allegations that a longtime colleague made inappropriate sexual comments to minors.

"When Jimmy was a teenager he acted like many kids and used inappropriate language while trying to be funny," a spokesperson for the YouTuber said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Over the years he has repeatedly apologized and has learned that increasing influence comes with increased responsibility to be more aware and more sensitive to the power of language. After making some bad jokes and other mistakes when he was younger, as an adult he has focused on engaging with the MrBeast community to work together on making a positive impact around the world."

His highly produced videos of whimsical challenges and lavish gifts, often accompanied by expressive thumbnails and punchy titles, have drawn a record 307 million Youtube subscribers. His latest uploads include "Ages 1 - 100 Decide Who Wins $250,000" and "I Built 100 Houses And Gave Them Away!" which, like most of his videos, garnered more than 100 million views.

The philanthropic sector has received this content with a mix of praise for encouraging direct generosity and criticism of exploitative "inspiration porn." Donaldson's greater ambition made itself plain in recent years through the launch of his snack brand Feastables, a branded burger chain with reviews bad enough that he sued the company behind it, and an Amazon Prime Video deal for a 1,000-contestant reality competition show.

But before overtaking YouTube with his often-absurd charitable acts, Donaldson built a sizable following as a gaming content creator who sometimes interacted with viewers on livestreams.

In a 2017 clip circulated by YouTube influencer Rosanna Pansino in a July 24 post on X, Donaldson responded to a viewer who commented about selling Black people for money and said that "the most I would pay is probably 300." Donaldson also used a homophobic slur at multiple points. After one commenter repeated a racial slur, Donaldson eventually instructed his audience to stop using that word in the chat.

Pansino told AP she'd worked on various potential business ventures with Donaldson over the last several years, though none ever launched. Last fall, she complained publicly about an edit of her appearance in a MrBeast video, though eventually deleted the posts after she said she received death threats from fans.

Pansino said that contrary to popular opinion, it's "just not true" that Donaldson has always made "family friendly content."

"His first videos, where he was trying to be an edgy gamer and streamer, and he said horrible things and nasty things—I didn't know that," Pansino said. "I had no idea that history was there."

In a separate clip from a May 2017 podcast appearance, Donaldson suggested he would have sex with the rapper Bhad Bhabie, whose real name is Danielle Bregoli and who was 14 years old at the time. The video has since been removed for "violating YouTube's community guidelines."

Disagreement with father progresses to estrangement

DEAR ABBY: After several years of worsening arguments, I told my father I was tired of fighting with him, and we needed family counseling. He was deeply, explosively offended and not only refused to talk about counseling, but also ceased all contact with me.

He called my siblings and told them I was disowned and then changed his will. This was surely an overreaction, but it might be generational. When I said we needed to see a therapist, I think he heard me calling him (or us?) mentally ill, which he found unacceptable.

The relationship with my dad is probably not repairable, but he has told all of our extended family that I'm the one who cut off contact with him and that I started it. I guess that's sort of true because I said we needed to be in counseling before we visited each other again, but the way he tells the story made me look like a villain, and my aunts and cousins stopped inviting me to family events. No one will pick up the phone or answer emails.

I have a good job and live on my own, so it's not that I need their support, but I miss them and hate them thinking so poorly of me. Besides going to counseling myself, which I'm doing, what can I do?

MISSING IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MISSING: There is little more you can do besides what you have already tried. You might send out one more mass email blast explaining in detail what happened with your father, tell them you love and miss them and that you are sorry that your suggestion that you and Dad have family counseling resulted in your being shunned (which is what is happening). Then get on with your life and gather a "chosen family" of friends who are supportive in good times and bad.

■■■■

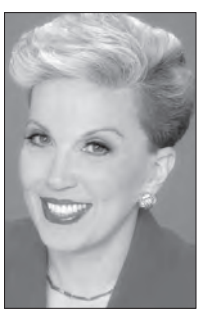
DEAR ABBY: I am a retired nurse on a limited income. Shortly after retiring, I used a large part of my retirement money to pay off the house, put on a much-needed new roof and purchase a car and various household necessities so I could at least come close to living on my Social Security income.

For the last seven years, my daughter has lived with me along with her children, who have grown in number from one to three in that short time. She's unable to keep a job because she has a variety of mental and medical issues, so I have gladly helped with co-parenting the children. I pay the bills, run errands and provide the transportation for our household while she does most of the food procurement. Some of the disputes we wind up having are about the food -- eating and wasting, etc. Because I have allowed her to live here and already pay almost all the bills, am I wrong for wanting a say in matters of menu and grocery lists?

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

She gets very possessive about the shopping choices

FUSSING OVER FOOD IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR FUSSING: You are a loving, caring and generous mother. I assume you are also paying for the food your daughter is buying. If that's the case, then your wishes should prevail when it comes to what's on the menu.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in

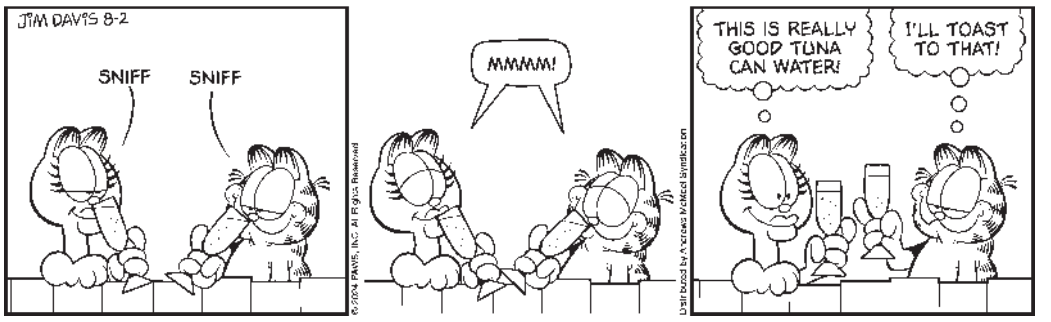
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

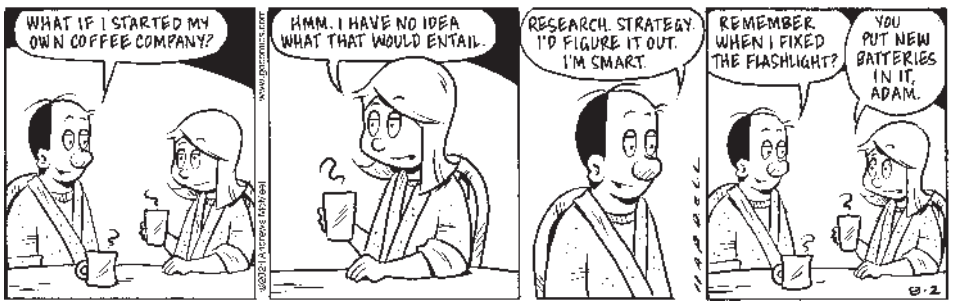
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



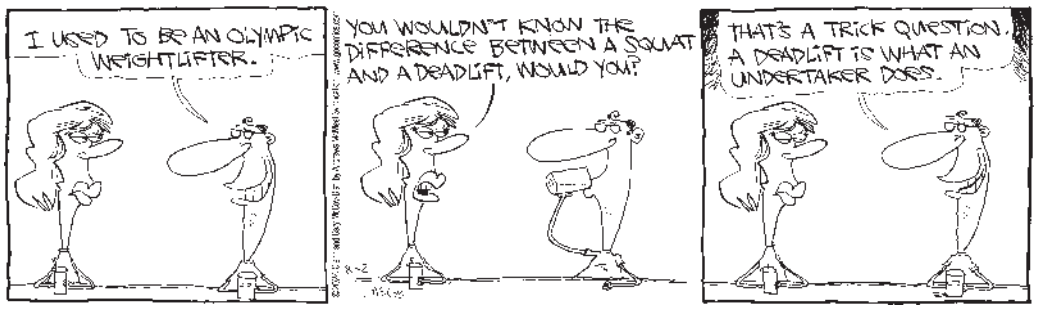
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT IF I STARTED MY OWN COFFEE COMPANY?
HMM. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT WOULD ENTAIL.
RESEARCH. STRATEGY. I'D FIGURE IT OUT. I'M SMART.
REMEMBER WHEN I FIXED THE FLASHLIGHT?
YOU PUT NEW BATTERIES IN IT, ADAM.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I USED TO BE AN OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTER.
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SQUAT AND A DEADLIFT, WOULD YOU?
THAT'S A TRICK QUESTION. A DEADLIFT IS WHAT AN UNDERTAKER DOES.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Heart chart (Abbr.)
4 — butter
8 Soccer legend
12 Navy address
13 Cash drawer
14 Tied
15 "Betsy's Wedding" actor
17 Look after
18 Open up, as a flag
19 Damage
21 — Moines
22 One expressing a view
26 Antlered animals
29 Calif. clock setting
30 Revue segment
31 "Stay in your —!"
32 Bond rating
33 Tart fruit
34 Mork's home
35 Devious
36 Diving ducks
37 Sheep sounds
39 Aachen article
40 Priestly garment
41 Apple music service
45 Krasinski of "The Office"
48 Scaremonger
50 Pundit's piece
51 "— Lisa"
52 Baton Rouge sch.
53 Hamilton's bills
54 Fired
55 Cry

DOWN
1 Jacob's twin
2 Pottery oven
3 Tennis great Steffi
4 Gazes
5 Rolling landscape
6 Days of yore
7 Colorado city or county
8 — dish
9 Prior night
10 Cariou of Broadway
11 Conclusion
16 Elbow
20 Likely
23 "The Lion King" lioness
24 Earth sci.
25 GPS suggestions
26 Neatnik's nightmare
27 Skater Lipinski
28 "My Way" composer
29 Salary
32 Mobile home?
33 Blood part
35 Bando of baseball
36 Foursome
38 Wedding rings
39 Keaton of "Annie Hall"
42 Guitarist Lofgren
43 Old U.S. gas brand
44 Concert souvenir
45 Scribble (down)
46 Unlock, in verse
47 Coop dweller
49 Bagel topper

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	A	I	N	■	B	O	D	E	■	G	E	M
A	L	S	O	■	I	C	N	I	■	I	A	E
C	O	L	D	W	A	T	C	H	■	A	R	A
S	E	A	D	O	G	■	■	E	G	Y	P	I
■	■	■	F	N	■	S	C	R	F	W	■	■
B	I	G	D	■	R	A	H	■	S	O	R	E
U	S	O	■	■	I	T	C	■	■	I	F	T
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■	■	■	D	I	T	Z	Y	■	O	R	■	■
H	O	W	S	O	■	■	U	T	O	P	I	A
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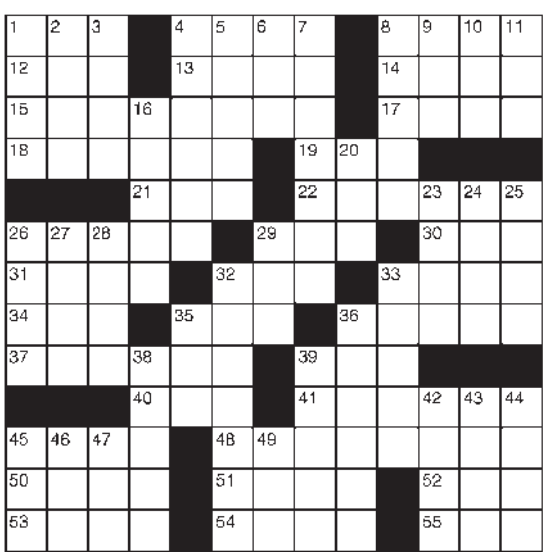
F	E	R	■	A	B	I	T	■	N	O	T	A
I	N	K	■	S	I	L	C	■	S	L	A	M

Yesterday's answer 8-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hallie Eisenberg, 32; Sam Worthington, 48; Kevin Smith, 54; Mary-Louise Parker, 60.

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind and prepare to be surprised this year. You'll discover all sorts of exciting information to help you decide which path is best for you. Being ready to put your energy where it counts will bring the highest return emotionally, intellectually and creatively. It's time to explore using the skills and attributes you enjoy most in a pleasing, helpful and fulfilling manner. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 26, 35, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Invest time and money in your interests, happiness and prospects. Reach out to experts, expand your mind and participate in something that intrigues you. The people you encounter or spend time with will enhance your life and help you fulfill your dreams. Romance is favored. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Stick close to home and make changes to improve your living arrangements. Don't argue with someone who isn't going to see things your way. Focus on what you can accomplish. Adopt patience and abolish stubbornness. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Tune into what interests you and discover something about yourself that makes sense and encourages you to refine your life. Consider what bores you and eliminate it from your daily routine. Make wise decisions, delegate what doesn't interest you and live life your way. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Last-minute changes will save you money. Step outside your comfort zone and let your imagination take you on a journey. Explore new interests, meet new people and discover what brings you joy. Let the past go, modify and present your goals, and welcome what's yet to come. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Look for opportunities and follow through. A change may not excite you, but it will help you eliminate pending problems dragging you down. Embrace what excites you and live in the moment and for the future instead of hanging on to the past. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change of attitude, location or direction will help you realize what you are missing. Reach out to groups of interest, and you'll find a place that makes you feel you belong. Develop new skills that will aid you in securing a path you want to pursue. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take pleasure in discovery. Delve into hobbies that fascinate you and prompt you to learn something new. Refuse to let anyone make you feel guilty for enjoying yourself or taking a break. The time you invest in something you enjoy will enrich your life and prospects. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Choose intelligence over bravado. How you handle professional or financial matters will determine your reputation and the chance to advance. Mixing business with pleasure will encourage goodwill and opportunities. A change of heart someone reveals will take you by surprise. Be supportive but cautious. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Gauge what's happening around you. You'll get a false impression from someone trying to talk you into an investment or joint venture. Don't believe everything you hear or let your guard down when dealing with emotional matters. Protect your assets, possessions and reputation. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll do your best to stick to what and who you know. Be smart when dealing with investments or joint ventures. Avoid situations that can compromise your position or goal. Put your energy into personal growth, nurturing meaningful relationships and maintaining stability. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't hold back; apply pressure to reach your objective where necessary. Home improvements will require attention. Take the initiative to do the prep work to lower overhead and ensure you get the desired results. Romance and personal improvement are favored. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep your plans and life simple. Consider options thoroughly, and avoid spontaneous decisions that can backfire and cost you emotionally, financially or physically. Avoid situations that test your patience and loyalty. Know when to say no and who to avoid. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, playful and changeable. You are creative and social.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							1	
		2			6			8
4					1		5	2
	7			4				9
2		8			9	1		3
3	1			6				
8						9		
6	3	5		9		8		
7					2			6

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/2

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	8	9	1	7	4	2	3	5
1	4	2	9	5	3	7	8	6
3	5	7	2	6	8	9	1	4
4	9	3	7	8	5	6	2	1
2	1	6	3	4	9	8	5	7
5	7	8	6	2	1	4	9	3
8	6	4	5	3	2	1	7	9
9	2	5	4	1	7	3	6	8
7	3	1	8	9	6	5	4	2

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ARIZONA BILTMORE RESORT AND SPA — Solution: 7 letters

C	I	T	R	U	S	C	L	U	B	I	K	E	O	P
A	O	R	Y	P	A	R	E	H	T	O	L	A	H	R
T	I	T	E	W	E	L	L	N	E	S	S	S	E	I
A	T	H	T	T	E	N	N	I	S	I	A	N	A	V
L	A	T	O	A	A	G	O	Y	S	L	A	S	N	A
I	P	I	T	T	G	I	W	A	O	T	U	S	U	C
N	R	P	A	E	E	E	L	N	A	I	H	E	L	Y
A	O	E	L	E	L	L	E	S	T	E	S	N	A	E
O	O	R	E	E	I	D	H	E	A	N	E	T	R	S
R	D	I	G	T	R	E	N	L	K	I	T	I	R	I
A	T	F	A	A	A	I	T	A	E	S	A	F	E	D
U	U	C	G	R	W	H	N	D	C	I	Ⓛ	L	I	A
G	O	L	T	A	E	R	T	E	R	U	I	Ⓞ	T	R
A	O	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	C	P	G	Ⓞ	A
S	R	U	H	T	R	A	C	M	I	W	S	T	E	Ⓟ

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Bike, Candle, Catalina, Citrus Club, Cottage, Cuisine, Firepit, Fitness, Gelato, Golf, Halotherapy, Health, Holidays, Hotel, McArthur's, Oasis, Ocatilla, Outdoor, Paradise, Patio, Pets, Pilates, Pool, Privacy, Renata's Hearth, Retail, Retreat, Saguaro, Salon, Sol Garden, Suite, Swim, Tennis, Tierra Luna, Wellness, Wine, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Backhoes

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Ledecky wins; triathlon held in the Seine; Guatemala earns 1st gold

PARIS (AP)—Katie Ledecky gritted her teeth and flexed her left arm atop the lane rope.

There was plenty of splashing, too, by one of the most accomplished swimmers to ever dive into the pool.

Ledecky dominated the 1,500-meter freestyle at the Paris Games on Wednesday for her eighth Olympic gold medal and 12th medal overall.

And that might not even have been the most impressive performance on a big night in the pool.

France's Léon Marchand completed one of the most audacious doubles in swimming history by winning the 200 butterfly and the 200 breaststroke about two hours apart.

There was also a world record in the 100 freestyle as Pan Zhanle of China lowered his own mark.

AP

Katie Ledecky, of the United States, celebrates after winning the women's 1500-meter freestyle final at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Wednesday, July 31, 2024, in Nanterre, France.

Triathlon success

An ambitious plan to clean up the long-polluted Seine River paid off when the swimming portions of the Paris Olympics triathlons were finally held in the waterway Wednesday.

After a couple of canceled swim practices and a day's delay because of the river's water quality, the women's and men's events finished in spectacular fashion—on the Pont Alexandre III bridge with the Eiffel Tower in the background.

"It's magical," said newly minted gold medalist Cassandre Beaugrand of France. "It's the best route we've had in a long time and I know all the other athletes feel the same."

Beaugrand navigated slippery roads that turned the cycling portion into a series of spills following an early morning rain.

The men's triathlon, which started less than an hour after the women finished, there was plenty of stifling heat and humidity to deal with as the sun came out in full force. Alex Yee of Britain used a burst at the end to catch and pass Hayden Wilde of New Zealand to win the gold medal by six seconds.

U.S. men beat South Sudan in basketball

The U.S. men's basketball team had an easier time with South Sudan in the rematch than it did when the teams first met a couple of weeks ago. The U.S. clinched a trip to the quarterfinals with a 103-86 victory.

Guatemala's gold

A spinal injury ended Adriana Ruano's Olympic dream as a gymnast. She came back as a shooter and won Guatemala's first Olympic gold medal.

Ruano was training for the 2011 world championships in gymnastics, a qualifier for the London Olympics the following year, when she felt pain in her back.

An MRI showed the then-16-year-old had six damaged vertebrae—a career-ending injury—and Ruano's doctor recommended she take up shooting if she wanted to stay in sports without aggravating her injured back.

That advice paid off Wednesday as Ruano won gold in the women's trap with an Olympic-record score of 45 out of 50.

Djokovic still chasing gold

Novak Djokovic is three wins away from earning the only big title he lacks.

Djokovic needed a bit of time to assert himself before taking control with a five-game run for a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Dominik Koepfer of Germany, reaching the singles quarterfinals for the fourth time at the Summer Games.

A gold medal is pretty much the only accomplishment of significance missing from the resume of Djokovic, a 37-year-old from Serbia who has won a men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles and spent more weeks at No. 1 than anyone in the history of the computerized tennis rankings.

Djokovic next faces Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Rafael Nadal's Paris Games ended when he and Carlos Alcaraz were eliminated in the men's doubles quarterfinals with a 6-2, 6-4 loss to the fourth-seeded American duo of Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram.

Canada women's soccer team reaches Olympics QF despite points deduction from drone-spying scandal

Vanessa Gilles scored in the 62nd minute to give Canada a 1-0 victory over Colombia and send the team into the quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics on Wednesday despite losing six points in the tournament because of a drone-spying scandal.

Canada will face Germany in a quarterfinals Saturday in Marseille.

Earlier in the day, the defending Olympic champions lost their bid to overturn the FIFA-ordered points deduction for filming an opponent's practice in France.

Canada, which won its first two matches but earned no points from those victories, went into Wednesday's match in Nice in need of a win to stand a chance of advancing.

"Going into the match we wanted to win regardless of what that ruling was," Canada captain Jesse Fleming said. "It did not change our game plan or what we wanted to do."

Canada had asked the Court of Arbitration for Sport to overturn the six-point penalty imposed by the sport's world governing body for spying on New Zealand practices ahead of their opening game last week.

"Chances were stacked against us, but we pulled through, we stayed together through it all and we have seen results of that," Gilles said after the victory.

In the group's other match, Marie-Antoinette Katoto scored goals in the 22nd and 49th minutes for France to down New Zealand 2-1 in Lyon. Kate Taylor scored in the 42nd minute for the Ferns.

US tops group

Trinity Rodman and Korbin Albert both scored and the United States remained undefeated at the Olympics with a 2-1 victory over Australia on Wednesday to conclude the group stage.

The Americans, who already qualified for the quarterfinals, will play Japan on Saturday at Parc des Princes in Paris.

Canada, despite losing points as punishment for a drone spying scandal, advanced to play Germany in Marseille. Brazil was set to play France in Nantes and Spain faces Colombia in Lyon.

The United States is the winningest team at the Olympics, with four gold medals in women's soccer. They're playing under new coach Emma Hayes, who is tasked with turning the team around after a disappointing Women's World Cup.

So far the team is off to a good start. The front trio of Rodman, Sophia Smith, and Mallory Swanson have scored seven of the team's nine goals in France.

"The team is feeling good, we've had three great performances," Crystal Dunn said. "Obviously there's always things that we look at where we're like, 'Alright, this could be better.' But overall I'm proud of the group. I think we really came together."

Dunn had a well-struck attempt from distance in the 38th minute but Australia goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold pushed it up and over. Moments later, Arnold stopped Lindsey Horan's header from close range.

Rodman broke through in the 43rd minute when she poked in the ball in a scramble in front of the net. Video review stretched on for several minutes—apparently because of a technical issue—and Australia coach Tony Gustavsson was given a yellow card in the confusion.

Albert, who was subbed into the game during the second half, added a goal in the 77th.

"I was trying and hoping for a goal," Albert said. "I've been working at it in practice and mentally, just trying to focus on it. And then it just happened. I actually closed my eyes and then I opened them and I was like, 'Oh my God it went in.'"

U.S. midfielder Sam Coffey got a second yellow card in the fourth minute, meaning she won't be available against Japan.

The Matildas peppered U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher in a scramble as time wound down and Alanna Kennedy helped Australia avoid the shutout with a goal a minute into stoppage time.

The Americans' game against Australia was a rematch of the bronze medal match at the Tokyo Games. The United States won 4-3 on goals from Carli Lloyd and Megan Rapinoe, who have both since retired.

Hayes said she worked through the possible things that could derail them in France — like looking ahead to the move to Paris for the quarterfinal.

"Today played out how I thought it would," Hayes said. "I said to the girls before the game 'This is a banana skin game.' They said 'What's that?' They said 'it's called a trap in America.'"

Germany advanced in second place behind the U.S. by routing Zambia 4-1 in Saint-Etienne.

Lea Schueller scored two goals—the first in the 10th and the second just past the hour mark.

Klara Buehl had given Germany a 2-0 lead in the 47th—shooting low into the bottom corner from outside the box.

Barbra Banda struck her fourth goal of the tournament two minutes later to give Zambia hope of salvaging something, but Schueller's second extended Germany's lead again.

A brilliant volley by substitute Elisa Senss in the seventh minute of stoppage time completed the win.

Jokic strong in Serbia's 107-66 rout of Puerto Rico in Olympic men's basketball

VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ, France (AP)—Serbia had tried to match the pace of the U.S. team in its Paris Olympics opening loss. It made sure not to repeat the same mistake against Puerto Rico on Wednesday.

Serbia romped to a 107-66 victory in men's basketball at Pierre Mauroy Stadium in Lille behind Nikola Jokic's 14 points, 15 rebounds and nine assists—good enough to make a bit of Olympic history for the Denver Nuggets star.

Filip Petrusev had 15 points and nine rebounds to help Serbia bounce back from its Group C loss to the U.S. It stays on track to advance to next week's knockout round. Serbia is 1-1 with its last group game Saturday against South Sudan.

"We didn't control our emotions, control our rhythm (against the U.S.)," Petrusev said. "For you to beat a champion, you really have to play above your expectation to really have a chance to win the game. But tonight we really came to play. From the first moment we started aggressively. ... Overall, we are satisfied. But we need one more."

Christopher Ortiz led Puerto Rico with 19 points.

Now 0-2 in the group stage, Puerto Rico was eliminated after the U.S. win over South Sudan. It faces the U.S. in its last group matchup.

Serbia built a 12-point lead without Jokic even scoring a point. But he was involved in other ways, compiling six rebounds and four assists in less than five minutes of game action early on.

Serbia's lead reached 20 points in the second quarter.

Now its attention turns to South Sudan, which beat Puerto Rico on Sunday.

In their only meeting, Serbia blew out South Sudan 115-83 during the group stage of last year's World Cup. But Serbia captain Bogdan Bogdanovic is expecting to face a much different version of the upstart African team this time.

"Great opponent," Bogdanovic said. "They started the tournament well. They played with great confidence. It's going to be a tough game. We need to come out with the same energy we had today and to fight."

Burger, Bride homer in the Marlins win over the Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Xavier Edwards drove in three runs, and Jake Burger and Jonah Bride homered to help Roddery Muñoz beat the Tampa Bay Rays 6-2 Wednesday for the rookie's first win in nearly three months.

Edwards had a sacrifice fly and two-run single for the Marlins, who overcame a pair of one-run deficits to salvage a two-game split and send Taj Bradley (6-5) to his first loss since June 8.

Muñoz (2-5), a 24-year-old right-hander, had been 0-5 in 10 starts since beating Colorado on May 1 for his first major league win. He allowed two runs and four hits while striking out seven over five innings. He gave up a solo homer to Christopher Morel in the first and RBI triple to Jonny DeLuca in the second.

AP

Miami Marlins' Ali Sanchez bunts into a fielder's choice off Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Edwin Uceta during the seventh inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 31, 2024, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

ORIOLES 10, BLUE JAYS 4

BALTIMORE (AP)—Jackson Holliday returned to the major leagues with a flourish, hitting a fifth-inning grand slam for his first career home run to help Baltimore to a victory over Toronto.

Holliday, the No. 1 pick in the 2022 draft and baseball's top-ranked prospect at the moment per MLB Pipeline, had been sent down after going 2 for 34 with 18 strikeouts for the Orioles earlier this season. In his first game back, he grounded out twice before connecting for a 439-foot drive with the bases loaded that gave Baltimore an 8-3 lead.

Colton Cowser also went deep for the Orioles, and Addison Barger homered for Toronto.

YANKEES 6, PHILLIES 5

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—DJ LeMahieu had a career-high six RBIs with a grand slam and two-run double, Nestor Cortes got his first road win this year and the New York Yankees extended their winning streak to five with a victory that completed a three-game sweep of slumping Philadelphia.

Giancarlo Stanton added a pair of hits for New York, which rebounded from a 10-23 slide with its best stretch since eight consecutive wins from May 9 to June 6.

Weston Wilson homered and Nick Castellanos had three RBIs for the Phillies, who have lost four in a row and 11 of 15. Two-time NL MVP Bryce Harper went 0 for 5 with two strikeouts, hit into a game-ending double play and is in a 1-for-30 slump. The Phillies had not been swept in a three-game series at home since July 22-24, 2022.

BRAVES 6, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Matt Olson and Travis d'Arnaud hit back-to-back homers twice, and Atlanta defeated Milwaukee.

Olson and d'Arnaud went deep on consecutive pitches from Freddy Peralta in the fourth inning to tie the game as the Braves erased an early 2-0 deficit. Olson hit a 416-foot drive to center field and d'Arnaud added a 412-foot shot to left-center off Nick Mears in the eighth to help the Braves leave Milwaukee with a series victory.

According to Sportradar, it was the first time two players hit back-to-back homers twice in one game since Houston's Mauricio Dubón and Jose Altuve did it in a 13-6 victory over Texas on Sept. 4, 2023.

CARDINALS 10, RANGERS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Tommy Pham started in left field for St. Louis, getting three hits and two RBIs, and Michael McGreevy pitched seven innings in his MLB debut to lift the Cardinals to a victory over Texas.

Pham returned to St. Louis on Tuesday and debuted with a pinch-hit grand slam after being part of a three-team trade Monday. Pham began his career with the Cardinals, who drafted him in the sixth round in 2006.

Brendan Donovan drove in three runs, and Michael Siani and Alec Burleson each had two RBIs. Nolan Arenado and Paul Goldschmidt added two hits apiece, and the Cardinals scattered 14 hits against four pitchers.

Marcus Semien had two of the Rangers five hits and drove in the lone RBI.

ROYALS 10, WHITE SOX 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Freddy Fermin launched a two-run homer among his four hits and the Kansas City pounded the White Sox, extending Chicago's franchise-record losing streak to 17 games.

Vinnie Pasquantino added a two-run shot and finished with three RBIs. Salvador Perez had three hits and drove in two runs as the Royals won their third straight.

Major league batting leader Bobby Witt Jr. lengthened his hitting streak to 13 games with two infield singles, raising his average to .349. The star shortstop walked twice, scored three runs and stole his 24th base.

Andrew Benintendi drove in two runs with a double and finished with two hits for the major league-worst White Sox, whose slide is the longest since Arizona dropped 17 straight games in 2021.

TWINS 8, METS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Wallner hit a two-run homer and came within inches of another round-tripper as Minnesota finally won a game in New York by beating the Mets.

Byron Buxton also connected and Pablo López (10-7) pitched six innings of three-hit ball as the Twins prevented a three-game sweep. They were outscored 39-13 while losing their first five games in New York this season against the Yankees and Mets.

The victory was Minnesota's first at Citi Field since April 9, 2019.

Wallner's homer capped a five-run outburst in the third, when Luis Severino (7-4) gave up five straight hits to begin the inning. The outfielder nearly went deep again in the fifth, when center fielder Tyrone Taylor reached over the fence and got a piece of the ball but could not corral it as Wallner settled for a double.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, NATIONALS

PHOENIX (AP)—Zac Gallen won his third straight start, Ryan Thompson got out of a one-out, bases-loaded jam in the ninth inning, and the Arizona Diamondbacks earned a three-game sweep by beating the Washington Nationals 5-4 on Wednesday.

Arizona has won five straight series, but this was the Diamondbacks' first sweep in that stretch. Washington took an 8-2 lead in the series opener Monday before Arizona rallied to win 9-8 and outscored the Nats 29-3 over the rest of the series.

RED SOX 3, MARINERS 2, 10 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP)—Rafael Devers doubled home the winning run in the 10th inning for his third hit of the game, and Boston beat Seattle.

Zack Kelly (4-1) pitched out of a major jam in a scoreless 10th for the win. Danny Jansen hit a tying single in the sixth and Boston took two of three from the Mariners, who are locked in a tight race with Houston atop the AL West.

CUBS 13, REDS 4

CINCINNATI (AP)—Ian Happ launched a two-run homer and the Chicago Cubs banged out nine doubles among their 17 hits in routing Cincinnati to avoid a series sweep.

Seiya Suzuki, Patrick Wisdom and Pete Crow-Armstrong each had a two-run double. Nico Hoerner, Christian Bethancourt and Cody Bellinger also drove in runs for the Cubs, who set season highs for runs and hits. They struck early and never really let the Reds climb back into the game.

Chicago hammered one of Cincinnati's best pitchers, left-hander Nick Lodolo (8-4), who exited with two outs in the sixth inning. He tied a career high by allowing eight runs and 11 hits in his worst outing of the season.

ASTROS 5, PIRATES 4

HOUSTON (AP)—Mauricio Dubón hit a two-run homer, Framber Valdez struck out 10 in six innings and Houston came from behind to beat Pittsburgh.

Dubón came in to pinch hit in the sixth inning with the Astros trailing 4-3. He hit a 97 mph sinker from reliever Colin Holderman (3-2) off the signage above the left field seats to give Houston the lead. It was Dubón's first career pinch-hit homer and helped Houston snap a three-game losing streak.

Valdez (10-5) settled in after the second inning and gave up four runs on six hits in six innings for his fifth win in his last seven starts. Josh Hader pitched the ninth for his 21st save.

The Pirates led 4-0 but three errors by shortstop Oneil Cruz allowed three runs to score for Houston in the second and third innings. Jeremy Peña scored on a wild pitch after reaching on Cruz's throwing error in the second.

A fielding and throwing error allowed Chas McCormick to score from first in the third inning and Yordan Alvarez to reach third. He scored on a single from Yainer Diaz.

PADRES 8, DODGERS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—San Diego's Dylan Cease held the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers in check in his first start after throwing his first career no-hitter and Clayton Kershaw lasted only 3 2/3 innings in his second start of the season as San Diego won for a two-game sweep.

Kershaw made his 2024 debut on Thursday after having offseason shoulder surgery. The 36-year-old lefty had a solid outing against San Francisco then but had a shaky performance at Petco Park, as did the rest of the Dodgers, who committed three errors and had just three hits.

All-Star Jurickson Profar had two RBI singles and Luis Campusano had a homer and RBI single for the Padres, who won for the ninth time in 11 games since the All-Star break.

The Padres clinched the season series against their biggest rivals at 7-3 with just a three-game set to go at Dodger Stadium in late September. It snapped a streak of 13 straight season series wins for the Dodgers.

GIANTS 1, ATHLETICS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Logan Webb pitched his second career shutout, leading San Francisco to a victory over Oakland.

Webb (8-8) struck out six, limiting the A's to five singles and a walk in his first complete game of the season and third of his career. His other shutout came July 9, 2023, in a 1-0 victory over Colorado.

Webb threw 73 of 106 pitches for strikes, getting 14 groundball outs. He allowed at least four earned runs in each of his previous three starts.

The Giants snapped a three-game losing streak against their Bay Bridge rivals to split the two-game series. They will play twice more in Oakland on Aug. 17 and 18.

Oakland's Ross Stripling (2-10) pitched well against his former team, permitting one run on four hits with a walk and no strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings.

ROCKIES 2, ANGELS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif., (AP)—Brenton Doyle capped an impressive July with a towering home run in the eighth inning, Ezequiel Tovar extended his hitting streak to 17 games and Colorado Rockies beat the Los Angeles Angels to snap a five-game losing streak.

Logan O'Hoppe hit a solo shot in the fifth inning for the Angels, who are 2-4 on their current homestand.

Doyle, who missed Tuesday's game due to a bruised right index finger, connected on a slider from Hans Crouse (4-2) that went 431 feet into the left-field stands beyond the bullpens to put the Rockies back on top.

It was Doyle's 11th homer in July, tied with Oakland's Brent Rooker for most in the majors, and it was his 19th extra-base hit, which led MLB.

Doyle's .337 batting average (29 for 86) during the month was third in the NL. He led the NL in slugging (.791) and OPS (1.191).

Kyle Freeland (3-4) won for the third time in his last four starts and tied his season-high in going seven innings. The right-hander allowed one run and six hits while striking out six.

Islander Rent A Car, Yuman still unbeaten

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Islander Rent A Car and GMP x Yuman are still firing on all cylinders as they remain unbeaten in the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 after their games at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

Islander Rent A Car drove past Jacob's Bakeshop, 84-71, while Yuman overpowered Star Water, 127-95, for their fifth straight win of the season.

Islander Rent A Car's powerful starting five led the team to a huge 16-point deficit by the end of the first half, 50-34. Paolo Yanto's accuracy and dominating performance on the court allowed him to secure 15 points in the first half alone—after back-to-back threes and free throws.

Teammate Frank Ferrer then took the wheel in the second half and directed the flow of points from the 3-point line with two 3-pointers—for a total of four downtown in the game. Jerome Directo got in on the action and navigated within the paint through Jacob's Bakeshop's defenses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Islander Rent A Car team poses for a group photo during the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Jacob's Bakeshop tried to halt Islander Rent A Car's momentum in the second half, but it was too little, too late. All they could do was play catch up and their lead scorers, Emman Bondad, Mark Aycardo, and Gab De Guzman made a push to add more points on the scoreboard.

However, Islander Rent A Car's defenses held and with additional points from their bench and their top three shooters, drove away with their fifth straight win, 84-71.

Yanto powered Islander Rent A Car to victory with 21 points, while Ferrer backed him up with 13, and Directo added 11.

Jacob's Bakeshop's Bondad led the team with 19 points, while Aycardo put up 17 markers, and De Guzman shot 14.

In other results that day, Saipan Tiger roared past Triskelion, 86-74; GMP x Yuman climbed on top of Team Underground, 105-94.

In the standings behind Islander Rent A Car and GMP x Yuman is Savemore at 3-2; Team Underground, Star Water, and Saipan Tigers are tied at 2-3; Jacob's Bakeshop have just one win at 1-4; and Triskelion haven't yet won a game at five losses.

Islander Rent A Car 84 – Yanto 21, Ferrer 13, Directo 11, Dinglasan 10, Mejarito 6, Jose Broncano 6, Ferrer 5, Agustin 5, Jonathan Broncano 4, Gontar 2.

Jacob's Bakeshop 71 – Bondad 19, Aycardo 17, De Guzman 14, Malonzo 6, Sy 6, Reyes 4, Dominguez 3, Jacob 2.

Scoring by halves: 50-34, 84-71.

IAKOPO

From page 20

spite the rain, I believe it was a perfect touch to the ceremony. The opening ceremony included many French art performances, celebrities such as Lady Gaga and Celine Dion performing, and a fashion show. When it was time for American Samoa to be announced, I couldn't contain my pride and excitement. I truly felt so immensely blessed and honored to wave American Samoa's flag and showcase who we are to the world."

Iakopo said since arriving in Paris for the 2024 Olympics two weeks ago, she's been zeroing in on completing her training to fulfill her once-in-a-lifetime dream to compete in the Olympics.

"Throughout these two weeks in Paris I have been on a tapering regimen, meaning a decrease in volume of training as it leads up to my competition to avoid body fatigue and maximize my performance. The training facility is used by athletics competitors from all countries in the Olympic Games. Being surrounded by other world-class athletes creates such a unique environment because it's all the best athletics athletes in one place. It's just overall amazing and the adrenaline rush I receive is like no other."

Aside from her, the American Samoa delegation to the 2024 Paris Olympics include swimmer Micah Masei and her coach Cassandra Bess Lund as well as American Samoa National Olympic Committee president Etisone Ed Imo and his wife, secretary general Ethan Lake and his wife, and chef de mission is Joe Ioane.

Iakopo said aside from her training at the Stade de France, she spends most of her time at the Olympic Athletes Village, which she described as "huge."

"There are buildings designed to hold all athletes from each country. In our room, our beds are made out of cardboard and given a Paris 2024 bedsheets that all athletes are able to take as a souvenir! The village consists of all different kinds of things like gyms, a market, nail and hair salon, many grab-and-go food trucks, and an Athletes 365 hang out area! In there we are able to vote for athletes running for Athletes Commission, photo booths, game rooms, and multiple TVs to watch other sports live."

She also marvels at the Olympic Athletes Village's mess hall and the efficient transportation system in the Olympics.

"The main dining hall consists of various types of food that ranges from American to Asian and Italian cuisine! I believe it caters to exactly what all the different athletes may need to fuel their bodies," said Iakopo.

"The transportation system in the Olympic Games is by far the best I have ever experienced in an athletic program. There are volunteers always there to guide where we would need to be and what time we are able to catch a bus to a training facility or returning to the Olympic Athlete Village. Whenever a bus leaves, it only takes about 5-10 minutes for the next to come, it is very consistent and on time. I never experienced waiting too long for transportation. Also, the Olympic Athlete Village also provides bikes to bike around the area and shuttles if people decide not to walk!" she added.

As for her encounters with titans of her sport, Iakopo said, so far, she's seen Sha'carri Richardson from the USA, Shelly Ann Fraser Pryce and Sherika Jackson from Jamaica, and many more while training at Ile des Vannes. At the Olympic Athletes Village, she's also seen Gabby Thomas, Simone Biles, and Stephen Curry.

"Every day I see many superstar athletes and it is incredible to know that they are here for the same reasons that I am too."

Like other athletes participating in the 2024 Paris Olympics, Iakopo said she's also been gifted with a bag of gear from the American Samoa National Olympic Committee.

"My American Samoa gear is beautifully designed to represent the Samoan culture through our distinct art. I have four T-shirts, two jackets and sweatpants set, a backpack, hat, and flags! It is the best feeling wearing the American Samoa flag on my clothing to represent where I am from to other countries. "

BANDITS

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three runs in the sixth to tie the game up once again, 9-9, after the Cardinals brought home two—for nonstop back-and-forth tug of war action over the lead.

In the end, it was the Cardinals' wild pitching that ultimately became their downfall, as they lost in dramatic, base-on-balls walk off fashion.

Last Wednesday's game saw the Braves hunt down the Bears, 8-5.

In the standings, the Falcons clinched the pennant with their 9-1 record; the Cardinals are at 7-3; Bandits are at 7-2 each; Padres have a 6-2 record; Sandlot and Braves are at 6-3; Blue Jays are 5-4; Royals have an even 4-4 record; Bears are 4-6; D-9er's are 2-6; Natives haven't won a game and lost eight; while Blue Shark also haven't won a game with nine losses.

When all last regular season games are finished this week—or next week depending on the rain—the postseason schedule will be determined.

JASON

From page 20

tary School was invited by All Round Jiu Jitsu in Ilsan, Korea to join their team and compete in the tourney.

"It was an honor to compete with them, especially [professor Park's] gym. It's a competition team and everyone in his team is very good and each individual won something in the competition," he said. "So, it made me more motivated to try and win plus I wanted to gain more experience competing in jiu jitsu."

Atrero was the only person from Saipan to compete in the tournament.

He's now looking forward to his next competition—the Mats on Fire hosted by Trench Tech on Oct. 5 at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse and also the Marianas Open International Championship that will be held in Guam on Oct. 12.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Competitors of the Prova Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Championship in the Hwaseongsi Sports Stadium Indoor Gymnasium, South Korea pose for a group photo last Saturday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	65	44	.596	–
New York	65	45	.591	½
Boston	57	50	.533	7
Tampa Bay	55	53	.509	9½
Toronto	50	59	.459	15

Central Division

Cleveland	65	42	.607	–
Minnesota	59	48	.551	6
Kansas City	60	49	.550	6
Detroit	52	57	.477	14
Chicago	27	84	.243	40

West Division

Houston	56	52	.519	–
Seattle	57	53	.518	–
Texas	52	57	.477	4½
Los Angeles	47	61	.435	9
Oakland	45	65	.409	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	65	43	.602	–
Atlanta	58	49	.542	6½
New York	57	51	.528	8
Washington	49	60	.450	16½
Miami	40	68	.370	25

Central Division

Milwaukee	61	47	.565	–
St. Louis	56	52	.519	5
Pittsburgh	55	53	.509	6
Cincinnati	52	56	.481	9
Chicago	52	58	.473	10

West Division

Los Angeles	63	46	.578	–
San Diego	59	51	.536	4½
Arizona	58	51	.532	5
San Francisco	54	56	.491	9½
Colorado	39	70	.358	24

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SBL STANDINGS

Falcons	9	1		
Bandits	7	2		
Cardinals	7	3		
Padres	6	2		
Sandlot	6	3		
Braves	5	3		
Blue Jays	5	4		
Royals	4	4		
Bears	4	5		
D-9er's	2	6		
White Sox	2	7		
Natives	0	8		
Blue Shark	0	9		

DESTROYERS STANDINGS

Islander Rent A Car	5	0		
GMP x Yuman	5	0		
Savemore	3	2		
Team Underground	2	3		
Star Water	2	2		
Saipan Tigers	2	3		
Jacob's Bakeshop	1	4		
Triskelion	0	5		

Ledecky wins; triathlon held in the Seine; Guatemala earns 1st gold.

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Sports

Islander Rent A Car, Yuman still unbeaten.

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Iakopo to compete today in Paris Olympics

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Filomenaleonisa Iakopo with American Samoa swimmer Micah Masei and American Samoa delegation chef de mission Joe Ioane.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Filomenaleonisa Iakopo will compete today in the preliminary round of the 100m dash of the 2024 Paris Olympics at the Stade de France in Ile des Vannes.

Suiting up for her father's country of birth, American Samoa, the 18-year-old recent Kagman High School graduate said her goal in the quadrennial event is to eclipse her personal best time of 12.83 seconds and hopefully advance to Round 1 of the century dash.

"My goal in the Olympic Games is to clock in a personal best and advance into Round 1. To advance into Round 1, I would have to get Top 3 in my heat," she told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

She said since she has yet to compete, the highlight so far of her Olympic experience was the opening ceremony, which she said was such a surreal experience.

"Instead of a traditional walk through a stadium, all countries rode on boats through the Seine River. De-

See IAKOPO on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Filomenaleonisa Iakopo poses with the American Samoa flag during the opening ceremony of 2024 Paris Olympics.

Bandits swipe win against Cardinals, 10-9

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Bandits swiped the win away from the Cardinals, 10-9, in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Cardinals' pitching broke down in the worst possible moment of the game as it was on the line in the bottom of the last inning, tied at 9-9.

With no outs, the Cardinals' pitcher delivered the walk off base-on-balls to the Bandits' Ton Guerrero, which scored Niko Martin who hit a triple earlier in the inning.

Martin was in a crucial scoring position as the Cardinals' pitching couldn't get a grip on the ball and resulted first in a walk to Harry Nakamura, then a hit-by-pitch to Ben Taisacan—which loaded the bases—and which they capitalized on.

The Cardinals were in heart-break city as they walked back to the dugout with their third loss in dramatic fashion during their final regular season game.

The Bandits actually bounced back later in the game after being down 2-6 in the fourth inning. They found their groove over a fatiguing Cardinals' pitching staff and tied the game up, 6-6, after two runs scored in the fifth.

The Cardinals then took the lead back by one, 7-6, in the sixth inning off a run by Nokki Saralu, but the Bandits' caught fire and stayed hot for the rest of the game.

Martin, Nakamura, and Guerrero went on to score

See BANDITS on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Bandits' John Wilson reaches out for a bunt during their last regular season game against the Cardinals in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field last Tuesday.

LEIGH GASES

Bandits' Tindin Leon Guerrero throws a pitch during their last regular season game against the Cardinals in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field last Tuesday.

Jason Atrero golden in BJJ champs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI martial artist Jason Atrero atop the podium with his gold medal during the awards ceremony of the 67-kg white belt division in the Prova Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Championship in the Hwaseongsi Sports Stadium Indoor Gymnasium, South Korea last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Jason Atrero bagged his first ever win and a gold medal no less during the Prova Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Championship in the Hwaseongsi Sports Stadium Indoor Gymnasium, South Korea last Saturday.

In the 67-kg white belt division, he out-grappled competitors from South Korea in two matches to secure the gold medal.

This was just the 28-year-old's second competition and his first podium finish.

He said in his final matchup, he was able to sweep his opponent and gain 2 points, then 4 more points for maintaining the top position. He then rounded it off with a submission using a kimura lock for the gold medal.

With just about one and a half years of training experience under his belt, he said his first win "was an awesome experience."

The special education teacher at Garapan Elemen-

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